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Weekly Journal of the Chemical and Drug Trades
and of
British Pharmacists throughout the Empire.
ESTABLISHED 1859.

The CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is in circulation and reputation the leading journal addressing the chemical and drug trades in the British Empire and other countries in the Old and New Worlds. It is the official journal of fifteen Chemists' Societies in Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, and the West Indies.

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THE BOOM STILL BOOMING.

As you may have observed, the tale of Britain's trade overseas is still of the rosiest. The editorial article on 53 of last week's issue gives all particulars as regards the drug and chemical trades, and it shows how important is for manufacturers and wholesalers to keep in the swim. The man who can assist in this more than anyone else is the merchant shipper, whose co-operation is a necessity for big export business. To help you, and him,

THE EXPORT MERCHANT SHIPPERS' ISSUE

of

THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST

is to be published on

March 8, 1913.

If you have not yet had full details of the special purpose of that Issue, write for them to the Publisher, THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

SUMMARY.

Being a first glance at the articles and events reported in this Issue.

Articles and Communications.

The business methods of chemists and the lack of them are discussed in a letter on p. 78.

"Subscribers' Symposium" includes this week a commendation of Pimple Lotion, P.F. (p. 79).

"Lay-out" in advertisements is discussed by Christopher Courtenay, replying to "Xrayser II." (p. 79).

Further papers communicated to the Australian Pharmaceutical Conference are given succinctly on p. 69.

We tell in a note on p. 66 how matters stand at present as regards the patent-medicine inquiry, and note the British Medical Association's latest move (p. 67).

The prizes in this month's Students' Competition go to Mr. J. A. Wilkinson and Mr. C. G. Ostler. The substance for the next analysis will be a mineral (p. 46).

We have received from the Commissioners of Customs and Excise a communication, in which they state the exact conditions upon which chemists may sell quinine wine (pp. 65-66).

Dr. W. H. Martindale calls attention to the importance to pharmacists of a knowledge of the chemistry of the soil. His paper contains hints of special use to Colonial and country chemists (p. 67).

National Health Insurance.

The triplicate prescription-form is doomed. The Insurance Commissioners (England) have so decided, but it is yet doubtful whether English doctors will write a single or duplicate prescription. We print a special report on p. 56. The Scottish Commissioners have decided to ensure that chemists will get each prescription in duplicate.

In an editorial article we comment on the modification thus introduced, also giving the text of a letter from the Commissioners, which shows that india-rubber bandages are not confined to those on the tariff (p. 64).

Mr. O'Grady's statements in regard to the dispensing panel at Oldham are incorrect. See note on p. 65.

The reports as to dispensing arrangements from various parts of the country are in many respects important, some official decisions as to pricing and hours being of more than local interest (pp. 57-58).

A notable feature of the week is the recrudescence of dissatisfaction with the conditions and terms for dispensing. See p. 58 and pp. 77-78.

Another prescription-filing idea is given on p. 60.

News of the Week.

New Government contracts for chemicals, drugs, etc., are reported on pp. 47-48.

The 1912 financial report of the British Pharmaceutical Conference is epitomised on p. 48.

The Ransom v. Sanguinetti judgment has been adduced without success in a holding-out case (p. 52).

In Switzerland pharmacists' apprentices must now attend a university for a period before apprenticeship (p. 51).

The obituary columns are again heavy, several well-known provincial chemists having joined the majority (p. 55).

An important patent action has been started by Messrs. Crosfield, of Warrington, the subject of the patent being the conversion of glycerides (p. 69).

The Pharmaceutical Society has recovered penalties from two traders in the East-end of London. In one case the question was the absence or presence of qualified supervision (p. 52).

Trade and Market Matters.

The few market price changes include a further advance in citric acid; new cod-liver oil tending upwards, and cinchona at auction was firmer. Codeine and quicksilver are lower. Belgian castor oil, antimony, cocaine (seconds), turmeric, and lead salts are easier (p. 73). Java cinchona still retains its commercial interest. In our Trade Report we print a note in regard to the movement as to price fixing, and on p. 67 further comments from a well-known planter intended to show how strong the cinchona-planters' position is.

CORNER FOR STUDENTS.

Conducted by Leonard Dobbin, Ph.D.

All communications for this section should be addressed thus: "Corner for Students, 'The Chemist and Druggist,' 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C."

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS.

A MINERAL will form the subject of the next exercise in qualitative analysis. The mineral, which will be sent out in the form of a coarse powder, is to be submitted to a thorough systematic examination, all its constituents are to be detected, and proof is to be given that the substances detected are its only constituents. Students are specially recommended to reduce the mineral to an impalpable powder, by grinding in an agate mortar, before proceeding to its analysis.

Students' applications for portions of the mineral (accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope, not a stamp merely), will be received up to Tuesday, February 25, and the samples will be posted on the following day.

Students' reports will be received up to Saturday, March 8. Each report should contain a concise account of the work done, and should include a list of the constituents detected. In this list any substance regarded as an accidental impurity should be distinguished from the essential constituents of the mineral.

The analysis announced above forms the fifth exercise in the analytical tournament for the current winter session. The usual monthly first and second prizes in this series of analyses will be awarded only to apprentices or assistants who are preparing for the Qualifying Examination of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain or of Ireland, which fact *must be attested on their reports*.

Report on February Analytical Exercise.

The powder distributed to students on January 29 consisted of 5 parts by weight of lead acetate, 1 part of silver acetate, and 4 parts of zinc acetate. The calculated composition of such a mixture is:

Pb	...	...	...	...	27.3
Ag	...	...	...	...	6.5
Zn	...	...	...	...	11.0
C ₂ H ₃ O ₂	...	...	...	...	39.0
H ₂ O	...	...	...	...	16.2

100.0

The powder also contained, as impurities, distinct traces of aluminium and calcium, and it yielded faint indications of iron and of a chloride.

Samples of the powder were distributed to forty students, and fifteen reports were sent in for examination. All our correspondents succeeded in detecting lead and the acetic-acid radical, but two failed to detect silver, and seven failed to detect zinc. The traces of aluminium and calcium were only detected in a few cases.

Although designed as an exercise slightly below the average standard of difficulty in the tournament series, the results of analysis sent in, especially by unqualified correspondents, have been rather disappointing. The most remarkable and unsatisfactory feature is the frequency of failure in the detection of zinc, because as this metal was present to the extent of 11 per cent., its detection ought not to have been a difficult matter. We are rather at a loss to find any probable explanation for the majority of the numerous failures, unless ammonium hydrosulphide was added, as group reagent, to highly dilute solutions, and time was not allowed for the gradual precipitation of zinc sulphide. It is clear, however, from one or two reports that the writers of these had failed to add anything like a sufficient quantity of ammonium chloride prior to adding excess of ammonia as precipitant for the iron group, and that consequently they had obtained an abundant precipitate of zinc hydroxide, which they supposed to be aluminium hydroxide and reported as such. When ammonium chloride in relatively large quantity was added

before the addition of ammonia in excess, only a very slight precipitate was formed, and it behaved towards reagents in every respect like aluminium hydroxide containing traces of ferric hydroxide. Those students who precipitated most of the zinc in this way were obviously very liable to miss it entirely at the proper place; but, as this was only an exceptional occurrence, it is apparent that sufficient care in noting the effect of adding ammonium hydrosulphide was not exercised in the other cases of failure to detect zinc.

The original powder had a very distinct odour of acetic acid—a fact which was noted, however, in surprisingly few instances. More surprising were the numerous statements that heating the powder with dilute hydrochloric or sulphuric acid did not yield any volatile matter with characteristic odour. As a matter of fact, gentle heating with dilute sulphuric acid caused the evolution of acetic acid in quantity sufficient to render its recognition easy by the sense of smell.

Several correspondents described the powder as insoluble in water. This was almost as far as possible from accuracy, since, with the exception of a small quantity of basic lead carbonate which was formed when the powder was shaken up with distilled water, and a barely recognisable trace of silver chloride due to the presence of a trace of a chloride as impurity, the powder dissolved completely in cold water.

After the presence of silver had been established, it was to be expected that the nitric-acid radical would be particularly sought for. On the application of the usual test with ferrous sulphate and concentrated sulphuric acid to a portion of the original powder, a darkening of the aqueous layer where it met the concentrated sulphuric acid did indeed take place: it was not of the usual characteristic description, however, and was due to the separation of a precipitate of silver in consequence of the reducing effect of the ferrous sulphate. After standing for a short time the nearly black precipitate gradually sank into the layer of sulphuric acid below, and it became sufficiently apparent that a nitrate was not present. Nevertheless, a few students concluded from the darkening which took place that the powder contained a nitrate. Those students who applied the test for a nitrate to a portion of the solution prepared for the systematic examination for acid radicals, were not confronted with this difficulty, since the boiling with sodium carbonate had, of course, eliminated all the silver.

PRIZES.

The First Prize for the best analysis has been awarded to

J. A. WILKINSON, Alpine House, Prudhoe-on-Tyne.

The Second Prize has been awarded to

CLEMENT G. OSTLER, 3 Lambridge Place, Bath.

First Prize.—Any scientific book that is published at a price not greatly exceeding half-a-guinea may be taken as a first prize.

Second Prize.—Any scientific book which is sold for about five shillings may be taken as a second prize.

The students to whom prizes are awarded are requested to write at once to the Publisher naming the book or books they select.

MARKS AWARDED FOR ANALYSES.

1. Correspondents who are unqualified:

J. A. Wilkinson (1st prize)	...	Lithol	...	...	70
Nomen	...	...	...	...	70
C. G. Ostler (2nd prize)	86	Tolut	...	...	68
Rare Chemical	...	Junior	...	...	63
Smilax	...	Niger	...	...	63
En Avant	...	...	...	...	70

2. Correspondents who are qualified, or who have not indicated that they are unqualified:

Aspirin	...	...	Gwylm	...	...	92
Benzoin	...	...	Regma	...	...	94
Cobalt	...	...	...	...	...	95

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. A. WILKINSON.—Although the other impurities which you report were present in small quantity, we were not able, when operating upon about a gram of the powder, to confirm the trace of potassium. It was incorrect to describe

the powder as insoluble in water: the greater part of it dissolved almost immediately when shaken up with water.

C. G. OSTLER.—There is some mistake in your testing of solutions of the powder by means of Fehling's solution: how it has arisen we cannot say. We could not confirm the traces of manganese or of a nitrate which you report.

EN AVANT.—That portion of the residue obtained on boiling the hydrogen-sulphide filtrate to dryness, which is to be tested for phosphates by means of ammonium molybdate, should be dissolved in dilute nitric rather than in dilute hydrochloric acid. You fell into error regarding silver, through failing to observe that the original hydrochloric-acid precipitate did not dissolve completely in boiling water. You state that you added calcium chloride to an aqueous solution of the powder as a test for oxalates, etc., and did not obtain any precipitate, but that reagent was certain to produce a precipitate of silver and lead chlorides. We neither practise nor approve of the tasting of unknown substances for analysis.

LITHOL.—The black precipitate which you mistook for mercuric sulphide consisted of lead sulphide: we cannot say why you failed to get it to dissolve in acids.

NOMEN.—The ignition of a substance to destroy organic matter must not be carried out until after the metallic radicals precipitable by hydrogen sulphide in acid solution have been removed, since mercury and arsenic compounds may be expelled.

TOLUT.—If you added barium chloride to the original aqueous solution of the powder (as you seem, from your report, to have done), the supposed precipitate of barium sulphate really consisted of silver and lead chlorides. Confirmatory tests applied to the original solution of a substance which contains metallic radicals belonging to several analytical groups are not, as a rule, of much value.

JENIOR.—Your analysis does not follow any recognised or systematic order, and your application of tests is of too casual a character. You will find it a useful plan to follow rigidly, to begin with, at least, the course of analytical procedure laid down in any good text-book: departures from such procedure are only safe after much knowledge has been gained. A summary of the constituents detected should have been included in your report. Read also the first sentence of the reply immediately preceding.

REGMA.—We repeated the test for an ammonium compound, but did not obtain any positive reaction. May not traces of ammonia from the external air of the laboratory have slowly found their way into the space enclosing the red litmus paper? We have known errors to arise from this source, and to have been detected by carrying out a blank test side by side with that applied to the substance under examination.

Progress of the Tournament.

The analysis reported upon in the foregoing being the fourth in the tournament series, we append the aggregate scores, to date, obtained by those students who have sent in reports on all four exercises and have attained 300 or over. These scores disclose a distinctly interesting situation, and we trust that they will act as a stimulus to renewed effort in the two remaining exercises.

Aspirin	...	...	354	Niger	...	...	315
Benzoin	...	...	349	Smilax	...	...	313
C. C.	...	...	349	Tolut	...	...	312
Cobalt	...	...	348	Nomen	...	...	300
Lithol	...	...	329				

BUSINESS CHANGES.

Notes for this section sent to the Editor should be authenticated, and must not be in the nature of advertisements.

MR. W. F. TURNER, chemist and druggist, has recently taken over the business of **MR. J. H. LEECH**, at 36 Trinity Street, Cambridge.

MR. E. WATERHOUSE, pharmacist, has purchased the business of **MR. S. J. SIMMONS**, chemist and druggist, 57 Park Road, Norbiton.

MR. J. M. CUTHBERT, chemist and druggist, has purchased the business of **S. KITLEY**, chemist and druggist, 73 Lodge Road, Southampton.

MR. H. TEMPERTON, chemist and druggist, manager to **MR. C. N. COLE**'s branch business at Bush Hill Park, Middlesex, has now purchased it.

MR. E. A. ATKINS, Ph.C., 71 East Hill, Wandsworth, has purchased the business of **MR. A. G. FELTHOUSE**, pharmacist, 30 Highbury Park, Islington, London, N.

ENGLISH AND WELSH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the iter of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Brevities.

Burton-on-Trent Town Council have granted a poison-licence to **Mrs. M. Morris**, 105-6 Derby Street, Burton.

Mr. Herbert W. Jordan lectured before the Secretaries' Association on February 11 on "The Promotion and Flotation of Limited Companies."

The annual meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry is to be held at Liverpool on July 16. The Presidential address will be delivered in the Arts Theatre of the University.

Mr. W. J. Thomas, coalowner, of Rhondda, has given 12,750*l.* towards the erection of a medical school in connection with the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire.

Burglars were busy in Leicester during the early hours of Tuesday morning, and among other premises entered were those of **Messrs. Young & Son**, chemists, Gallowtree Gate, but nothing of any value was taken.

The Foreign Office has issued as a White Paper the text of the instructions to the British delegates to the International Opium Conference at The Hague. The results have been fully reported in the *C. & D.*, and the paper is merely of historic interest.

The Tottenham Court Road Traders' Association has been formed as an outcome of the window-dressing competition which was organised at Christmas by the National Cash Register Co., Ltd. More than half the traders in the street have joined the Association.

The second annual report of the Cardiff Chamber of Trade shows that the Chamber has made substantial progress. Three local pharmacists have contributed to this: **Mr. Jabez A. Jones**, the Deputy-President, and **Messrs. A. Hagon and Leo Joseph**, members of the executive.

Mr. P. F. Rowsell, on February 17, in urging the Council of the Exeter Chamber of Commerce to make representations to the Postmaster-General as to the number of breakages that arose in the parcel-post, said the loss through breakages had very much increased owing to the use of canvas bags instead of baskets. In one case his firm had to replace goods three times through breakage in the post. A resolution favouring the use of baskets was passed.

Contracts.

Lambeth Borough Council.—**Burt, Boulton & Haywood, Ltd.**, and **Adcocks**, for annual supplies of carbolic acid and powder respectively.

Stepney Borough Council.—**Adcocks**, for an annual supply of about 1,600 gals. of carbolic acid at 9*3d.* per gal., and about thirty gross of sulphur candles at 16*s. 2d.* per gross.—**Burt, Boulton & Haywood, Ltd.**, for carbolic powder at 3*l.* per ton.

Bermondsey Borough Council.—**Burt, Boulton & Haywood, Ltd.**, for annual supplies of disinfectants. Commercial carbolic acid (98 per cent. acids), 1*s. 5½d.* per gal.; prepared carbolic acid (containing not less than 20 per cent. acids), 8*3d.* per gal.; formaldehyde solution (guaranteed 40 per cent. strength), 4*s. 6d.* per gal. "Parafarm" tablets, 2*s. 3d.* per lb.; permanganate of potash, 2*l.* per cwt.

At a special meeting of the Leamington Chamber of Trade on February 12, it was reported that an answer had been received to the letter sent to the House Governor of the Warneford, Leamington, and South Warwickshire Hospital, asking that local chemists might be given an opportunity of quoting for goods used at the hospital, instead of them being bought out of town. This communication stated that the House Committee of the Hospital had decided that quotations for general drugs be invited by advertisements in the local papers.

Government Contracts.—*Admiralty*: **Cuxson, Gerrard & Co., Ltd.**, Oldbury; **Galen Manufacturing Co., Ltd.**;

G. Haynes & Co., Stockport; G. Oldfield & Sons, South Hackney; Robinson & Sons, Ltd., Chesterfield, Derby; T. J. Smith & Nephew, Ltd., Hull; W. G. Taylor, Saltley, and Vernon & Co., Ltd., Preston, for surgical dressings. *War Office*: Cuxson, Gerrard, Ltd., Oldbury, for field dressings. Younghusband, Barnes & Co., for linseed oil. Prices, Ltd., for sperm oil, etc. *Crown Agents for the Colonies*: Howards & Sons, Ltd., Stratford, for chemicals and quinine. Burroughs Wellcome & Co., for quinine tablets.

Ghent Exhibition Precautions.

The lesson of the destructive fire at the Brussels Exhibition of 1910 has been fully learnt, as is well shown by the arrangements which have been made by the authorities of the Ghent International Exhibition. At Brussels the disaster was largely due to the failure of the water supply, so at Ghent the grounds are mined in all directions by special water-mains to supply the hydrants for use in case of fire. The British Section there will have yet another great safeguard in the fact that the floors are laid direct upon the ground and all platforms packed with earth. This will completely confine a fire to where it can be reached at once.

Wine-licences.

At Scarborough the application of Mr. W. B. Shaw, chemist, for the transfer of his medicated-wine licence from his old premises in St. Nicholas Street to Westborough, Scarborough, was granted.

The following applicants have been granted wine-licences. In many cases it is understood that only medicated wines will be sold:

Mr. Wilkes, Evenwood, Bishop Auckland.
Mr. Albert Hartley, 45A Market Street, Colne.
Taylor's Drug Co., Ltd., of Cheapside, Shildon.
Taylor's Drug Co., Ltd., 58 High Street, Redcar.
Mr. Harold Mousley, 309 Witton Road, Aston Manor.
Mr. C. C. Brocklesby, Park Road, Barnoldswick.
Messrs. Grimble & Kent, chemists, 15 High Street, Boston.

Mr. W. A. Bellamy, chemist and druggist, 25 Agnes Road, Barnsley.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell, chemist and druggist, 56 Wide Bargate, Boston.

Mr. F. J. Harrison, chemist and druggist, 29 Fisherton Street, Salisbury.

Mr. R. B. Ferry, chemist and druggist, Seaside Lane, Easington Colliery.

Mr. Wm. Thomas, chemist and druggist, Alexandra Road, Gorseinon, Swansea.

Mr. Maurice Webster, chemist and druggist, 28 High Street, Tow Law, Wolsingham.

Mr. D. Dunlop, chemist, Bowness, was granted a wine-licence at the Ambleside Licensing Sessions. It was mentioned that the previous year the licence had been granted subject to the condition endorsed thereon that medicated wines only be sold, but when it came up for confirmation the Committee had objected that the Justices had no right to make this condition. The application was opposed by the local Licensed Victuallers' Association. The Bench, after considering the matter in private, announced through the Chairman that they had decided to grant the licence, but asked for an undertaking that the applicant restrict his sale to medicated wines. As to the other men who held wine-licences, they would hold them this year, but they would be restricted next year to the sale of medicated wines only.

Applications for wine-licences made on behalf of the following have been refused:

Mr. B. H. Kershaw, 17 The Green, Idle.
Mr. R. J. Atkinson, chemist, 20 The Green, Idle.
Timothy White Co., Ltd., 39 High Street, Guildford.
Mr. H. V. Jessop, chemist and druggist, High Street, Chase Town, Walsall.

British Pharmaceutical Conference.

The Treasurer's report has been sent to the members. As mentioned previously (*C. & D.*, January 18, index folio 82), the deficiency on the accounts is 7*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*, against 14*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* The receipts were as follows: Members' subscriptions, 374*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*; sale of "Year-book," etc., 21*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*; advertisements in "Year-book," 67*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* The expenses during 1912 include 256*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*

as expenses of producing the "Year-book," commission on advertisements, 16*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*; editor's salary, 75*l.*; assistant secretary's expenses, 40*l.* 8*s.*; postages and sundries, 22*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*; printing and stationery, 32*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*; and other expenses, 14*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* Particulars are also given of the Bell and Hills Fund (balance, 14*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*) and the Research Fund (balance, 23*l.* 12*s.*). It is proposed to raise a testimonial fund for Mr. E. Saville Peck, who retired from the secretaryship in 1912 after having held the position since 1901. The subscription is limited to a maximum of 5*s.*

Post-graduate Lectures.

The second of the course of post-graduate lectures for pharmacists, which are being delivered by Professor R. T. Hewlett, M.D., in the lecture-theatre of the Pharmaceutical Society, 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C., was delivered on February 19. The lecture-theatre was almost full, and the discourse, which lasted for over an hour, was listened to attentively. The subjects dealt with were the chemical examination of the urine, faeces, and secretion, and the significance of deviations from the normal. Then the micro-chemical side of the subject was referred to, especially in regard to the blood, and the basis explained of Vidal's test for typhoid and the Wassermann reaction for syphilis. This led up to a consideration of the opsonic index, Sir Almroth Wright's work in this connection being explained rather fully. The last part of the lecture concerned antiseptic and aseptic surgery, a sketch being given of Lord Lister's career. An awful picture was drawn of the terrible conditions under which surgeons worked before Lord Lister taught the doctrines of cleanliness. Then followed an outline of the vaccine treatment of disease. The President of the Pharmaceutical Society was among those present at the lecture.

Leicester Pharmacy Athletic Club.

The annual general meeting of the Leicester Pharmacy Cricket Club was held at the Oriental Café, Leicester, on February 11, Mr. Brett, President of the Athletic Club, being in the chair. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. E. H. A. Fry, said, in his annual report, that owing to several members not being able to play through the season, the cricket team had been weaker this year. Sixteen matches had been played, eleven being lost, three won, and one drawn. Mr. Chell had been awarded both the batting and bowling prizes. The Treasurer's report showed a balance in hand. The following officers for the year were then elected: *Captain*, Mr. Peberdy; *Vice-captain*, Mr. E. Tomlin; *Secretary and Treasurer*, Mr. E. A. A. Fry; *President*, Mr. F. Brett. The Vice-presidents were re-elected, with the name of Mr. A. Young added. *Committee*, Messrs. Chawner, Dennis, Ferguson, and Foreman.

Birmingham Notes.

Mr. E. Corfield, pharmacist, took the chair at the Midland Cornish Association dinner, held at the Grand Hotel, last Saturday.

Sir Thomas Chavasse, the eminent surgeon, who died suddenly on February 12, was one of the many medical men who leaned kindly upon pharmacy and its devotees, says our local correspondent.

Mr. W. H. Hedges, grandson of Mr. Hedges, pharmacist, of Dale End, Birmingham, won the amateur championship prize and silver cup in the Midland Counties Boxing Tourney on February 15.

Messrs. Neathercoat and Woolcock paid another visit to the Ironopolis to expound their views to local pharmacists on insurance matters. At the splendid but critical gatherings the spokesmen acquitted themselves admirably, Mr. Neathercoat's speech being an excellent exposition of the situation. Mr. Woolcock was particularly happy in his guarded replies to knotty questions.

Fire.

A fire broke out on February 14 about 9.30 P.M. on the premises in Miles Lane, London Bridge, London, E.C., occupied by Messrs. Meggeson & Co., wholesale druggists and lozenge-makers. About thirty engines were soon on the spot, but great difficulty was encountered in making

an effective attack on the flames, owing to the narrowness of the lane and the density of the fumes. Thousands of tons of water were pumped upon the fire from adjoining buildings, and after about an hour's hard work the flames seemed to be subdued, but almost immediately they broke out again with renewed strength. Eventually, after a two hours' struggle, the brigade gained the mastery. Three firemen were injured, but were able to return to their quarters after hospital treatment. The damage amounts to several thousands of pounds, but is covered by insurance.

Messrs. Meggeson write to thank their friends for letters of sympathy and offers of assistance, to which they are unable to reply individually. They add that the fire was a somewhat serious one; fortunately their warehouse is intact, but a portion of the manufacturing premises was destroyed, which will cause considerable inconvenience for some little time; but they have made arrangements which will enable them to carry on business and execute orders with as little delay as possible.

From Various Courts.

At the Tower Bridge Police Court on February 15, Walter George Fairbrother (30) and Frederick George Edwards (24), carmen, were charged with breaking and entering 175 Grange Road, Bermondsey, between December 27 and 28, and stealing a clock, value five guineas, and other property, belonging to Baiss Bros., Stevenson & Co., Ltd., wholesale druggists. Accused were remanded for inquiries.

At the Guildhall Police Court on February 12, Wm. Jas. Barnes (30), warehouseman, was sentenced to six months' hard labour for stealing a large quantity of pills, etc., belonging to his employers, Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd., manufacturing chemists, Bartholomew Close, London, E.C. It was stated that accused, posing as the representative of another firm of wholesale chemists, had offered odd lines of pills and patent medicines to retail chemists at reduced prices.

At the inquest on February 18 on James Frederick Claydon (25), barman, it was stated that the deceased appeared to have a craving for medicine. If he saw anything in a chemist's shop for consumption or asthma he would have it. He took any free samples that he could get at once. Dr. Hamilton said he found all round deceased's room empty bottles of various patent medicines advertised to either relieve or cure consumption or asthma. He had apparently tried everything he could get hold of. A verdict was found of "Death from natural causes."

A Chemists' Wife Committed for Trial.

At Hanley Police Court on February 14, Mrs. Jane Elizabeth Thomas, of Duke Street, Fenton, and formerly of Leonard Road, Hanley, was charged on remand with supplying noxious drugs for an illegal purpose (*C. & D.*, February 15, index folio 254). Mr. E. B. Lee, Deputy Town Clerk of Stoke, prosecuted. He said it was alleged that the defendant supplied certain medicine and pills to a girl named Brown, and that from the conversation which took place at the sale defendant must have known she was pregnant. The pills corresponded in the main with a British Pharmacopœia formula, and the prosecution admitted that they could be legitimately sold for certain irregularities, but, having regard to the directions given at the time, and the frequency with which they were to be taken, they were highly dangerous in the case of a pregnant woman. Mr. E. W. T. Jones, public analyst for Stoke, deposed that each ounce of the mixture contained: Iron, equal to 4.24 grains of ferrous sulphate; magnesia, 64 grains; and syrup of orange flavoured. The pills averaged $3\frac{1}{2}$ grains each, and they contained: Exsiccated sulphate of iron, 0.4 grain, and aloes, 1 grain, the remainder being compound cinnamon powder and glucose. Witness said he knew of no official preparation like the mixture. In cross-examination, witness agreed, however, that the mixture was practically the same as a formula in *The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary* under the heading of "Female mixtures." Dr. Pelgrave Johnson, medical officer of health for Stoke, and Dr. Square both expressed the view that

the pills and mixture were noxious in the case of a woman who was *enccinte*. Mr. P. J. McKnight, for the defence, urged that no offence had been committed within the meaning of the Statute, because the things supplied were not of themselves "noxious," and were only said to become so when taken by a pregnant woman. The Magistrate disallowed the contention. Defendant and her husband, Mr. L. L. Thomas, chemist and druggist, both gave evidence on oath, and stated that the mixtures were asked for for natural ailments, and that no suggestion was made as regards the girl being *enccinte*. The accused was committed for trial at the next Quarter Sessions, bail being allowed.

IRISH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Brevities.

An auction sale was held last week of the fittings and stock of the pharmacy of Mr. Henry Thackeray, Ph.C., Upper Stephen's Street, Dublin.

Mr. John Vaughan, Ph.C., late manager of Messrs. Leybourne & Clendinning's Medical Hall, Rathmines, Dublin, has opened a business at 67 Barrack Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.

The tenders of Mr. H. Boyers, Ph.C., Sligo, has been accepted for the supply of medicine, medical appliances, and disinfectants to the District Asylum and the County Sligo Fever Hospitals.

At the Cork Police Court, two youths were remanded on a charge of stealing a guinea camera from the shop of Mr. Richard Sumner, Ph.C., Patrick Street. The boys sold the camera for 1s. 6d.

Mr. J. W. Harvey, Ph.C., 31 Great George's Street, Cork, has completed alterations in his pharmacy which have greatly improved it. A new window enclosure and tiled floor are the chief features.

Mr. P. Mallon, Ph.C., Hill Street, Newry, is suffering from typhoid fever. During the past month two of his sisters, and a brother, who was a police inspector at Sligo, have died, and another sister is in hospital with the same disease.

Captain Charles Cameron, eldest son of Sir Charles Cameron, the Dublin City analyst, who was visiting at Waterston, Athlone, the residence of Mr. Harris Temple, Deputy Lieutenant, was accidentally drowned on February 16 whilst fishing in the lake attached to the demesne.

On the initiation of the Belfast Insurance Committee applications have been received from qualified chemists in the various districts of Belfast to dispense prescriptions and supply the necessary drugs and appliances in connection with sanatorium benefit. Any arrangements which will be made at present are provisional.

During the next few weeks the Irish Board of Guardians will decide upon the tenders for the supply of medicines and medical and surgical appliances to the various unions and dispensaries in the ensuing twelve months. The tendency of recent years has been to give the Irish contractors preference, except where the margin between them and English competitors is too great.

At the monthly meeting of the Central Camera Club in Belfast last week, an illustrated lecture on "Natural History Photography" was given by Mr. A. Morris, Ph.C., and Mr. W. J. Rankin, Ph.C. Mr. Rankin took up the subject of "Wild Flowers," and showed on the screen many beautiful examples of flowers as they grow in nature, Mr. Morris afterwards dealing with "Wild Birds and their Nests."

The Calendar.

The Calendar of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland for 1913 was published last week. It is the thirty-seventh issue and is corrected to January 1. Among the contents are the Pharmacy and Poison Acts which apply to Ireland, the regulations of the Council, particulars of the schools of chemistry and materia medica, with the registers of

pharmaceutical chemists, chemists and druggists, registered druggists, assistants to pharmaceutical chemists, and members and associates of the Society. A useful feature is a reprint of the questions that have been set during the year in the Preliminary and other examinations. These are often required by students who desire to become acquainted with the form of questions set at the various examinations conducted by the Society. The Calendar costs 2s. 6d., and is obtainable from the Registrar, 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin.

Creditors' Meeting.

A meeting of the creditors of William Thornton (trading as Boyle & Co.), druggists, &c., Curragh Camp, co. Kildare, was held in Dublin, on Wednesday, February 12, when a statement of affairs was submitted, showing liabilities 9,026l. 2s. 1d., to meet which there were assets of 5,306l. 6s. It was reported that the debtor in 1901 took over the business previously carried on by Messrs. Boyle & Co., at an agreed price of 10,000l., payable by yearly instalments of 500l. each. In 1908 the annual instalment was reduced to 300l., and the amount now due to the executors of Mr. J. Boyle is 5,558l. No offer was made, and after a short discussion it was decided that the estate should be wound up under a trust deed in favour of Mr. John Brown, C.A., of Dublin. The following are drug-trade creditors:

Representatives of J. Boyle, deceased, 5,556l.; Hugh Moore & Alexander, 506l.; Boileau & Boyd, Dublin, 44l.; British Petroleum Co., Dublin, 28l.

Medical Benefit Extension.

The Dublin Benefit Societies' Union, discussing the matter of the extension to Ireland of the medical benefit sections of the National Insurance Act, claimed that Societies and not the Insurance Committees must have the right to nominate or strike off doctors from the panels. The grant of 197,068l. which goes to dispensaries in Ireland under the Medical Relief Act should be diverted to form part of the medical benefit under the National Insurance Act.

A meeting of the Belfast members of the Chemists' and Druggists' Society of Ireland was held in the Society's rooms, Belfast, on February 12, for the purpose of considering the probable extension of medical benefit to Ireland under the National Insurance Act as foreshadowed by the appointment of a Commission to hear evidence in Belfast, Dublin, and Cork from persons interested in the matter. Mr. Robert Cambridge, J.P., Vice-President, occupied the chair, and a long discussion took place as to the effect of the extension on the drug-trade. After full consideration of the matter witnesses were appointed to give evidence before the Commission on behalf of the Society. The Commission will sit in Belfast on March 4 and 5. A large number of applications have been sent to the Belfast Insurance Committee by pharmaceutical chemists, chemists and druggists, and limited companies, to tender provisionally for the dispensing and supply of drugs and appliances under the Act.

SCOTTISH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Dundee.

Mr. David Scott Dryden, chemist and druggist, has acquired the business of the late William Moir at 113 Albert Street, Dundee.

Mr. James R. Milne, chemist and druggist, Hilltown and Polepark Road, Dundee, has disposed of the branch at Polepark Road to Miss Margaret Macfarlane, chemist and druggist, recently with Mr. Chas. Young, Ann Street.

Edinburgh.

A local chemist has calculated the average price of his insurance scripts, and finds it to be 7½d.

It is stated that 4,000 individuals applied to the Insurance Commissioners for permission to employ non-panel doctors. The Commissioners decided to refuse most of the requests.

A bottle-exchange on a small scale might be handy for insurance prescriptions. Most pharmacists now have their names on all dispensing-bottles, and they cannot be expected to accept a 3-oz. (with a rival's name blown into the glass) in exchange for a 6-oz. or 8-oz. of their own.

Fife.

At a meeting of Dunfermline Co-Operative Society, Ltd., last week, a member, speaking in regard to the proposed drug department at the Crossgates branch, said that 17. 4s. only had been received for the last two weeks for drugs at Crossgates, and he moved that the Society do not start a fully equipped drug department at Crossgates at present. The Chairman explained that at present Mr. McDonald, the Society's chemist, is only two hours in the village, and they could not expect to get satisfactory returns all at once. On a vote the motion was defeated.

Glasgow and the West.

Mr. P. M. Carrick, formerly of Glasgow, where he represented Messrs. Pinkerton, Gibson & Co. (having previously been with Mr. R. T. Dun) is now re-visiting this country after three years in Vancouver. He is returning there to start business as a capsule manufacturer.

The simplified dispensing charges compiled by the Glasgow Chemists' Association have now been printed and published at 1s. post free for members only. The Association is to have a social evening on Tuesday, March 18. A whist-drive will be held from 7.30 till 10, followed by dancing from 10 p.m. till "the wee sma' oors."

The "Glasgow Evening News" of February 17 contained a clever cartoon on the Glasgow carters' strike. In it St. Mungo was depicted as a worried chemist with a 10-oz. measure containing the problem "A Cloudy Solution." Close at hand were shop-rounds labelled Distrust, Determination, Common Sense, Peace, and Reason.

FRENCH NEWS.

(From the "C. & D." Paris Correspondent.)

M. MISAEEL BOUCHER'S PAMPHLET on "The Regulation of the Exercise of Pharmacy in France," gives, in a hundred pages, some interesting notes on current pharmaceutical problems, the overcrowding of the profession, and the idea of limitation. The author is an enemy of the system of "proportional pharmacy" (one pharmacy per 5,000 inhabitants or some similar fixed figure). He considers that the Government should draw up a "pharmaceutical map" and fix the location of *officines* according to the real needs of the population, those located in unremunerative districts receiving subventions raised by local taxation. This system would include an official tariff, medicine-chests in each municipality, &c. The question of the purchase of pharmacies by the State is also discussed, but M. Boucher thinks it hardly probable that it would be necessary to make pharmacists Government servants.

THE LAW OF PHARMACY.—In addition to the text of a proposed new French Pharmacy Law recently put forward by the General Association of French Pharmacists, a second and independent project of law has been laid before Parliament by M. Mille, M.P. for the Allier Department. A circular has been issued by the General Association to the various syndicates of pharmacy drawing attention to certain defects in the project proposed by M. Mille and urging them to oppose it. A third independent text is likely to be introduced by MM. Amedée, Peyroux, and Lefebvre du Prey. It is feared in pharmaceutical circles here that competitive schemes of this kind may lead to some confusion, and it is to be hoped, in the best interests of pharmacy, that an arrangement will be arrived at by which the General Association will be left to take charge of the text of the new law to be presented to Parliament. This would, of course, not obviate the acceptance of reasonable proposals suggested in the competitive schemes.

INDIA AND THE EAST.

(From the "C. & D." Correspondents.)

RINDERPEST SERUM.—The Mukhtesar Laboratory has undertaken to supply 300,000 doses of rinderpest serum to the Egyptian Government, the preparation to be spread over a considerable period.

PERSONAL.—Mr. J. M. Chalmers, chemist and druggist, of the Dispensary, Ltd., Penang, Straits Settlements, has returned to Penang by ss. *Bremen*. Whilst in Europe Mr. Chalmers made a special study of the latest methods of eye-testing and lens-cutting.—Mr. Claude S. Watson-Will, of Ipoh, was in Singapore when the mail left.—Mr. A. Morrison, manager of Messrs. Fraser & Neaves, aerated water department, Singapore, died on board the *Himalaya* on January 14 in the Bay of Bengal and was buried at sea. Deceased was on his way to Neuara Eliya for treatment for sprue.

DELETERIOUS DRUGS IN F.M.S.—The "Federated Malay States Government Gazette" of December 20, 1912, contains copy of an enactment (No. 15 of 1912), amending "The Deleterious Drugs Enactment, 1911." The present enactment (says the "Board of Trade Journal") provides, *inter alia*, that no person not duly licensed shall manufacture any morphine, or cocaine or any salts thereof, and that no such manufacture shall be carried on by any licensed person, in any place or in any manner not specified in the licence. It is also provided that no licensed chemist or druggist shall furnish any deleterious drug or syringe to any person unless in conformity with such conditions as may be prescribed by rule made under this enactment, or unless such person is a licensed person, or that the drug or syringe is furnished upon a written prescription by a medical practitioner or veterinary surgeon.

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN NEWS.

MESSES. STRANACK & WILLIAMS are making extensive structural alterations and additions to their premises in Vest Street, Durban. When completed the buildings will be among the finest in the thoroughfare.

RUSSIAN OPIUM.—A Bill for the suppression of the opium trade was laid before the Council of Ministers on February 17. It prohibits the cultivation of the poppy in the Amur General Government and in Transbaikalia and the importation of opium or opium-smoking requisites.

SENISE BUST.—The friends and pupils of Senator Tomaso Senise, Professor of Materia Medica at the Neapolitan Athenæum, have subscribed for his bust in bronze. It has been executed by Cerino, the sculptor. It stands on a marble pedestal, and will make an appropriate ornament for a public park or square.

THE BULLETIN of the Société Royale de Pharmacie de Bruxelles appeared on January 10 in an enlarged form and under the title of "Revue Internationale de Pharmacie." In future it is to be published twice monthly under the direction of Dr. A. Schamelhout, who is aided by an editorial committee. The first number contains a production of the beautiful new diploma of the Society maintaining the motto "Pro Pharmacia et Humanitate." The Brussels Society was founded in 1846, and has published a monthly journal for fifty-six years.

PROPRIETARIES IN CUBA.—A Bill to regulate the importation and sale of foreign medicines is under consideration in Cuba. According to this, foreign proprietary medicines may be distributed for sale in Cuba only when the representative is a Cuban pharmacist; the label must indicate the names and quantities of the component materials to which the preparation owes its medicinal properties; the Cuban Academy of Sciences must be satisfied that the medicine actually possesses the properties advertised; and a consular certificate must be produced to the effect that the medicine has been made in laboratories carried on according to the laws of the country of origin.

THE NYASALAND POISON AND OPIUM REGULATIONS of 1911 have been repealed, and in lieu thereof a new

Bill known as the "Sale of Drugs and Poisons Ordinance 1912" was assented to by the Governor of the Protectorate on November 8. The new regulations are published in the "Board of Trade Journal" (January 30), and among the proposals are that no person shall sell any poisons or drugs without being duly licensed, and that no licences will be granted except to Europeans. Certain articles are also scheduled which may not be sold except by the written authority of a medical practitioner or other authorised person. These articles include cannabis indica and its preparations, chloral hydrate, opium, cocaine, morphine and preparations thereof. It is also unlawful to sell any poison unless the box, bottle, vessel, wrapper or cover be distinctly labelled with the name of the article or the ingredients and the word "poison" in capital letters in red ink on a white label, and with the name and address of the seller. The sale of any of the scheduled drugs or poisons to Asiatics and natives is prohibited, but such drugs and poisons may be sold or given to Asiatics or natives when absolutely necessary for medicinal purposes by direction of a medical practitioner or other accepted person. The Governor-in-Council is empowered to make rules to prohibit or regulate the importation, manufacture, or sale of opium, morphine, cocaine, heroin, and preparations containing these drugs, and of any drugs liable to similar abuse and productive of ill effects.

SWISS PHARMACEUTICAL CURRICULUM.—The new pharmaceutical curriculum for Switzerland came into force on January 1. It extends to five and a half years, of which two and a half years will be spent in a pharmacy. The principal points in the new curriculum are: (1) The candidate must attend certain University courses before his apprenticeship in a pharmacy; (2) the apprenticeship is confined to the acquirement of a knowledge of practical pharmacy only; (3) in future three examinations must be passed to obtain the State qualification. The candidate first attends at a University for two or three semesters lectures and practical courses on physics, chemistry and botany, passing appropriate examinations. Then he has to spend at least eighteen months in a pharmacy and pass an examination in pharmacy, the pharmacopœia, and dispensing. This qualifies him to act as an assistant in a pharmacy. Three semesters have to be spent at bacteriology and chemical urine analysis. The total curriculum thus extends to at least four years, including the time spent in a pharmacy, and at the end of this period the candidate may present himself for the final examination in pharmaceutical chemistry and toxicology, pharmacognosy, pharmaceutical botany, the principles of hygiene and bacteriology, with special reference to foodstuffs, water, disinfection, and waste products. A knowledge of the pharmacopœia and its analytical methods is also required. After passing this examination another year must be spent in one or several pharmacies, and at the end of the year the diploma will be granted.

WAIT-AND-SEE PUBLICITY.—West-end shoppers in the neighbourhood of Regent Street, London, were on Thursday afternoon, February 20, alternately startled, amused, and interested at the spectacle of two gigantic boxes of "Wait-and-See" pills on the cab-rank opposite Oddenini's Restaurant. A C. & D. representative, who strolled into Oddenini's to find out the reason, discovered that he was one of about sixty business-men and Pressmen who were being entertained to a *récherché* luncheon by Mr. William Brass, the proprietor of the popular pill. The two "boxes" outside were part of a fleet of six motor-cars that have been acquired to assist distributors to supply sample boxes of "Wait-and-See" pills to every household in the Kingdom. The business was established less than two years ago, but already the laboratory is turning out one million pills per week, and a large factory has been leased to deal with the steadily increasing output. Mr. Brass was supported in the chair by his son, Mr. William Brass, jun., who is a candidate for the forthcoming L.C.C. election. The toasts were "The Press" (proposed by Dr. Broniech and Mr. A. Cleaver, and replied to by Mr. A. Richardson); "Wait-and-See Pills" (given by Dr. Pearson); and "The Host," given by Mr. J. Baldwin, and replied to by Mr. Wm. Brass, jun., on behalf of his father.

LEGAL REPORTS.

TRADE LAW.

Mixed Washing-soda.—The hearing of the case under the Merchandise Marks Act against Lavex, Ltd., for unlawfully selling a mixture of soda and Glauber salt to which a false trade description—viz., mixed washing soda—was applied, was resumed at the Clerkenwell Police Court on February 19, and Mr. Bros committed the case to the Sessions. (See "Legal Reports," *C. & D.*, January 11 and February 1.)

Eczema or Scabies.—In the City of London Court on February 17, Judge Rentoul, K.C., again had before him the case of Braun v. Katte, which was under the Workmen's Compensation Act, and in respect to eczematous ulceration in a hairdresser's assistant's hands, said to be due to the use of dry shampoo (see *C. & D.*, February 8, index folio 217). Five doctors, leading skin specialists in London, had testified that eczematous ulceration was the complaint which Braun suffered from; and three other medical experts, equally eminent, had said that he had scabies. The first-named complaint has been recently included in the Act as an "accident," under a Home Office order, while scabies has not. Judge Rentoul, K.C., after an exhaustive hearing, had found in favour of the workman. Mr. Crawford, counsel for the defendant, now said no award could be made in favour of the man. The proceedings were started by Dr. Mair, the certifying surgeon under the Factory and Workshops Act for the City of London, giving a certificate that Braun had "trade dermatitis" (which is not scheduled in the Act as an "accident"), and six weeks afterwards, without seeing Braun, the doctor amended the certificate to "eczematous ulceration." Mr. Coutts-Trotter, counsel for the plaintiff, said the amendment was made at his original suggestion, so that the man's claim could come under the Act. Judge Rentoul on the last occasion commented on what he called the blunder and carelessness of the certifying surgeon, but said he did not think the claim should be abortive just because of the mere technicality. Mr. Crawford urged that it went to the root of the matter. Dr. Mair was recalled to explain the matter, which he did; and Judge Rentoul said he would make an award by which Braun would receive half-wages from the date of dismissal in September last until further notice.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

HONEY.

In Banff Sheriff Court, before Sheriff Stuart, on February 18, the summons against John Stewart, merchant, Macduff, for selling honey containing 35 per cent. of sugar, already referred to in the *C. & D.*, was dismissed because a warranty was proved.

CREAM OF TARTAR.

In Banff Sheriff Court, before Sheriff Stuart, on February 18, Mr. William Ingram, solicitor, Portsoy, acting for Mr. William Adamson, chemist, Portsoy, who had been charged with selling adulterated cream of tartar, said that a warrant was to be given that day to have a sample of the cream of tartar sent to the Government chemist, but the Procurator-Fiscal now admitted that he had no case. He asked for expenses against the Procurator-Fiscal, but the Sheriff refused these, although he allowed the summons to be withdrawn.

CAMPHORATED OIL.

At the Birmingham Police Court, on February 14, Binnie Strachan, chemist and druggist, 149 High Street, Aston Manor, was summoned for selling camphorated oil containing only 15.6 per cent. of camphor instead of the 21 per cent. required by the B.P.—It appeared from the evidence for the defence that the oil had been compounded with the quantities of ingredients as prescribed by the British Pharmacopœia, and the deficiency was accounted for by non-solution of some of the camphor.—A fine of 20s., and 9s. costs, was imposed.

Mrs. M. A. A. Sanders, 104 Alum Rock Road, Saltley, was charged at the same court with selling camphorated oil containing only 7 per cent. of camphor.—Defendant informed the Bench that she sold the oil exactly as it was received from the wholesaler, but Mr. Prideaux mentioned that a sample obtained from the wholesalers

immediately after defendant's was taken proved to be genuine.—A fine of 20s. was imposed, with 9s. costs.

Medicine Stamp Acts.

A HOLDING-OUT CASE.

At the Bradford City Police Court, before Mr. H. W. W. Wilberforce (Stipendiary Magistrate), on February 18, Squire Pickles, ointment manufacturer, trading as S. Pickles & Son, at 7 Lower School Street, and 548 Rooley Lane, Bradford, was charged on five informations issued at the instance of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise, with having sold dutiable foot and skin ointment unstamped, and vending, exposing for sale, and keeping ready for sale medicines liable to duty without licence.—Mr. Arthur T. Hubbard, of the Solicitors' Department, Customs House, London, appeared for the prosecution, and stated that an Excise agent had purchased by post boxes of the two ointments, and the parcel sent to him had included a show-card, on which, above the name and addresses of the defendant, were displayed the words:

FOOT OINTMENT, 3d. per box. Corns, hoofs, warts, and ringworms.

SKIN OINTMENT, 4d. per box. Pimples, chilblains, and all kinds of skin complaints.

Mr. H. B. Ratcliffe (Bradford), who appeared for the defendant, admitted the facts, but maintained that the wording of the show-card did not actually recommend the ointments to the public, or state that the ointments were beneficial. In support of this contention he quoted the pure-gum pastille case (*Ransom v. Sanguinetti*). The statute must be construed strictly, he argued, and the defendant must be given the benefit of any doubt. Upon the Stipendiary Magistrate ruling against him on the point of law, Mr. Ratcliffe pleaded for slight penalties, on the ground that the offence had been innocent.

A fine of 5s., and 7s. costs, was imposed in each of three charges, the alternative being seven days' imprisonment.

[The Lord Chief Justice's judgment in the *Ransom* case was as follows:

"We are of opinion that there really can be but one construction put upon this label. The words, if they are to be read together, are 'Pure gum pastilles. Influenza. Delightfully soothing to singers and public speakers.' I think the real reading of this is 'Pure gum pastilles. Delightfully soothing to singers and public speakers.' Then to that is added or inserted the word 'Influenza.' What meaning can it possibly have except that they are good for influenza? And that does seem to me to be a distinct statement that they are beneficial to a complaint affecting the human body. It has nothing to do with any other label, and I think the Magistrates ought to have convicted."

We quote from the verbatim report in "Pharmaceutical Formulas," II., p. 41.]

Pharmacy Acts.

SUPERVISING POISON SALES.

In the Shoreditch County Court on February 19, before Judge Cluer, the Pharmaceutical Society sued for a 5l. penalty against Mr. J. E. Houseman, 19 Pitfield Street, Hoxton, N., for selling on September 14, 1912, white precipitate and belladonna plaster, contrary to the provisions of the Pharmacy Act, 1868. Mr. Lawless appeared on behalf of the Council and Mr. A. E. Robinson for the defence.—In opening the case, Mr. Lawless said the case seemed to turn on section 15 of the Act as to "who shall sell and keep an open shop." The defendant was at one time in business for himself, but turned it into a company, but there was no doubt that he held practically all the shares, say, 1,990 out of 2,000. They had summoned Mr. Houseman because he did the actual selling in the present case. Being a company, they had to have proper qualified chemists to attend to the businesses, but all that could be heard of were Messrs. Evans and Carlton, and they, for aught anyone might know, had to look after the five branches of the company. The defence in this case would, no doubt, be that these poisons were sold under the supervision of a qualified chemist, but he would produce

evidence to show that there were only two boys in the shop at the time of the sale. His argument was that even supposing a chemist were registered for that shop that did not cover the offender.—Judge Cluer: If an actual salesman sells me and hands me down what has been dispensed by a qualified chemist, is that an offence?—Mr. Lawless: Yes.—Judge Cluer: But if he sends a note up to the chemist and then sells, need the chemist be in the shop?—Mr. Lawless: Well! I don't know as to that point. I should say he should send up to the chemist and say someone has to be served and ask him to come down.—The first witness called was Mr. Geo. Waldoek, who said he had known the defendant very well for years, and there could be no mistake on his part that he was the one that served him with what he required. The business was known as Bewells, Ltd., and on the occasion in question there was nobody there but the defendant and two boys. He was certain that the defendant consulted no one as to the purchase. He knew that the defendant is the managing director of the business, but he is not a qualified chemist.—Mr. Robinson: There has been a crusade against limited companies by the Council, has there not?—Witness: I don't know.—Mr. Jas. Ed. Houseman then went into the box, and said that the limited company had five branches, with a qualified chemist at each, and a locum tenens to help out if necessary. He was certain that on the day in question Mr. Carlton was there, Mr. Evans being away on a holiday. When the purchase of the powder was made he held it up for the superintendent to see, who, having nodded assent, he took to agree to the sale. As to the plaster, that was actually handed to him by Mr. Carlton from under the counter, where that gentleman was having his tea. The articles in question were quite everyday purchases, but were never sold except under the supervision of the qualified chemist present. No boys were ever employed at that shop, and it was a deliberate untruth to say they were there on that occasion. In cross-examination defendant said Mr. Evans was the chemist actually appointed to that shop, but on that occasion was taking a well-earned rest. Just before the purchase of the powder, Carlton had been standing at his elbow.—Judge Cluer: You have to remember that if that statement is true, Waldoek must have seen him.—Defendant: He may have been looking out of the window.—Mr. Wm. Alfred Carlton, a qualified chemist, said he had been in the employ of the defendant for eighteen months, and had acted latterly as locum tenens. On the day in question he was at Pitfield Street, and it was absolutely impossible for any poison to have been sold without his knowledge.—Mr. Albert Houseman, a brother of the defendant, said he was in the shop on the day in question and was absolutely certain that Mr. Carlton was in the shop at the time that Mr. Waldoek made his purchase.—Judge Cluer: A wonderful memory. Judge Cluer said the only thing in favour of the defendant was that the Society had to send out a man, who was obviously trying to catch him, and therefore he was open to suspicion. Other than that the defendant had not a leg to stand on.—Mr. Robinson: I hope your Honour will hear what I have to say in this matter. If such things as these are allowed to go on, what possible chance has a chemist got of defending an action?—Judge Cluer: A chemist is not different from anyone else when the question of refuting a charge is concerned.—Mr. Robinson: But, your Honour, is it fair? is it honest for a Council with the great authority that they have behind them to send out a letter giving no place, no hour, and, in fact, nothing as to the charge they are formulating?—Judge Cluer: It is the way of the detective.—Mr. Robinson: But they are not detectives, although they employ them.—Judge Cluer: But they are the detectives for the trade.—Mr. Robinson: But surely you are not going to agree with such espionage? Is it not grossly unfair? I have never in all my experience heard of a case before, under the Pharmacy Act, run by one witness who could hardly be otherwise than interested in a conviction, as he was paid by the job; he was not a salaried servant. It is a very loose way indeed of proving a penal matter, and should never be countenanced by any judge. I am not out to discuss the motives of this prosecution, but it is well known how keen the Council are down on anyone who

dares to sell at store prices. If such prosecutions are allowed it will place the whole of the reputations of the chemists of London in the hands of one man, who only has to say a thing to be believed. It is not a fair and straight way of doing business.—Judge Cluer: In this case it is undisputed that the defendant sold the articles, and as he is unqualified, the burden of proof is upon him to show that he sold them under supervision, but that he has failed to do. I do not think Mr. Carlton was in the shop at the time. The goods sold are fairly harmless, but the legislature says they must be sold by, or under, the supervision of a qualified chemist, and therefore there is nothing left for me to do than to inflict a penalty of 5*l*. As to the defendant's memory, I think it is so good that there is no doubt he is not telling the truth. I am sorry that I cannot reduce the amount of the fine, as I should have power to do in the police-court, but I have no option in such cases.—Mr. Lawless: I may say that the defendant has been fined before.—Mr. Robinson: It is very improper. What has happened is that he has paid a fine in preference to fighting an action.—Judgment was then entered for the Council for 5*l*. and the costs of four adjournments.

OFFENCE ADMITTED.

At the same court a case was brought against Mr. Williams, 241 Rushmore Road, Clapton, for selling chloroform contained in a bottle of camphorated chloroform, he being unqualified. Mr. Lawless appeared for the Society.—Judge Cluer: Did you sell this?—Defendant: Yes.—Judge Cluer: He admits it, so there is nothing for me to do but inflict the penalty.—Defendant: But I cannot pay it.—Judge Cluer: I am sorry I have to inflict the full penalty, but it does not seem necessary under the circumstances. If it was a serious offence then the amount is far too little, but if it is such a simple matter as this one, then it is far too much. I am quite aware that I can poison myself just as well if sold by a qualified or unqualified person, but this is far too much. I have no power to reduce the amount, but had I have been in the police-court I should certainly have mitigated the sentence if I may put it that way. Has he admitted this offence all along?—Mr. Lawless: We wrote to him and he has taken no notice except to appear in answer to the summons. Your Honour must understand that this cuts both ways, although I can understand your views.—Judge Cluer: I can only repeat the amount is far too little for a serious offence, but is far too much for only selling me two pennyworth of camphorated chloroform when I had a horrible toothache.—Mr. Lawless: I will take note of what your Honour says.—Judgment was then entered for the Council for 5*l*. and costs, the amount to be paid at 7*s*. a month.

BANKRUPTCY REPORTS.

Re Frederick G. Pascall, Oakham, Chemist and Druggist.—The following are among the creditors: Barron, Harveys & Co. (43*l*. 6*s*.); W. Cooper & Nephews (22*l*. 16*s*. 1*d*.); Idris & Co., Ltd. (35*l*. 1*s*. 3*d*.); Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd. (51*l*. 13*s*. 10*d*.); Meggeson & Co., Ltd. (21*l*. 9*s*. 11*d*.).

Re R. B. Woodhouse, lately Produce-broker, Mineing Lane, London, E.C.—The public examination of this debtor was held at the London Bankruptcy Court, before Mr. Registrar Linklater, on February 8, the accounts showing total liabilities 5,145*l*. 17*s*. 7*d*. (unsecured, 1,797*l*. 19*s*. 1*d*.), and assets *nil*. Replying to Mr. Egerton A. Grey, Official Receiver, the debtor stated that he was admitted a solicitor in 1894, but soon abandoned that profession to take up a position in the office of his father, a produce-broker. He was taken into partnership in 1903 or 1904, and given a one-sixth share, which brought him in an average income of about 1,200*l*. a year. In 1909, his partnership agreement having expired, he was not asked to renew it, in consequence of his insolvent position brought about by gambling, and subsequently his father paid on his behalf racing debts to the amount of about 5,000*l*. In May 1909 he was taken back into the business as a clerk; and received between 500*l*. and 600*l*. a year. That position he held until last December, when he resigned it because he was again in financial difficulties. Witness attributed his failure and insolvency to losses, estimated at 3,262*l*., by betting and gambling at cards. In the autumn of 1912 he lost heavily

by playing chemin de fer at the Casino, Paris Plage, near Boulogne. In ten days he lost over 1,700*l.* in that manner. He now owes 4,200*l.* in respect of moneys borrowed for the purpose of paying gambling and racing debts. The examination was concluded.

LIMITED COMPANIES.

New Companies Registered.

The letters P.C. mean Private Company within the meaning of the Companies Act, 1907, and R.O., Registered Office.

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF CHIROPODISTS, LTD.—Registered with 500 members, each liable for 1*l.* in the event of winding-up. R.O., 253 Finchley Road, Hampstead, London, N.W.

MILLER INSTITUTE, LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 5,000*l.* Objects: For the treatment of sufferers from tuberculosis and morphine, tobacco, or alcohol habit, etc. R.O., Spring Grove House, Isleworth.

CHEMICAL CONTRACTORS, LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 2,000*l.* Objects: To carry on the business of chemists, druggists, dyers, salters, dealers in photographic materials, etc. R.O., 65 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.

TYSON & BRADLEY, LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 3,000*l.* Objects: To take over the business of C. Kendall and T. H. Bradley, Hipper Chemical works, Brampton, Chesterfield. The first directors are C. Kendall and Alpheus Laughton.

SYNTHOL, LTD.—Capital 5,250*l.* Objects: To take over the experimental business of producing, manufacturing, and refining hydrocarbons and hydrocarbon spirit carried on by F. Lamplough at Dover Yard, Dover Street, W.

MORRISON'S 66, LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 2,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of chemists, druggists, chemical manufacturers, etc. Jacob B. Morrison is the first director. R.O., 49 High Street, Southampton.

MORPHEW & CO., LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 250*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To take over the business of "William John Morphey," drug-stores, 121 Moss Street, Blackburn. The first directors are W. J. Morphey and Mrs. M. A. Morphey. R.O., as above.

SALUTARIS WATER CO., LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 7,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of manufacturers of and dealers in "Salutaris" and other mineral waters, etc. The first directors are A. W. Haig, C. H. Haig, E. W. Haig, and R. C. Haig.

ANTAFSAL PATENTS, LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 100*l.* Objects: To acquire the Antafsal nasal appliance, and to adopt an agreement with W. M. Richards, who is the first director and chairman. R.O., Vernon House, Sicilian Avenue, Southampton Row, London, W.C.

ENGLISH URILINE CO., LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 1,000*l.* Objects: To carry on the business of manufacturers of and dealers in medicinal and chemical preparations, etc. The first subscribers are H. M. Davidge and F. G. Turtaban. R.O., 146 Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

BENNETT & JENNER, LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 1,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To take over the business of a chemical and food-preservative manufacturer, etc., carried on by A. Whalc at 64a Abbey Lane, Stratford, as "Bennett & Jenner." R.O., 7 Union Court, Old Broad Street, E.C.

ALLEN & HANBURY'S (RUSSIA), LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 20,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of chemists and druggists in Russia and elsewhere. The directors for the time being of Allen & Hanbury's, Ltd., are to be the directors of this company. R.O., 37 Lombard Street, London, E.C.

CLEARY & CO., LTD. (P.C.)—Registered in Dublin. Capital 260*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of pharmaceutical chemists and druggists, etc. The first directors are Miss Teresa M. Cleary and M. R. Cleary. R.O., The Main Street, Hospital, Knocklong, co. Limerick.

W. H. GINZLER & CO., LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 3,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of tin-plate decorators and stampers, manufacturers of tins for chemists, druggists, etc., at Port Talbot. The first directors are W. H. Ginzler (manager), C. Gibbons, and P. David. R.O., York Place, Port Talbot, Glam.

BRITISH THERMO-PLASTIC MANUFACTURING CO., LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 1,500*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To take over the recipes for a thermo-plastic material belonging to G. E. Fritche and W. A. Cloud. The provisional directors are R. C. Lees, W. A. Cloud, and G. E. Fritche. R.O., 120 King Street, Hammersmith.

COLLINGS, CASH CHEMISTS, LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 200*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of chemists, druggists, dealers in surgical, medical, and dental goods, etc., and to adopt an agreement with Kate Collings, drug-store proprietor, and E. Collings, cab-driver, both of 1 South Street, New North Road, London, N.

J. H. SMITH & CO. (CHEMISTS), LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 500*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of wholesale chemists' sundriesmen, medical plaster manufacturers, etc. The subscribers are J. H. Smith, 206 St. George's Road, Bolton, drug-store proprietor; T. Smith, school-master; and F. W. Pare, dispensing chemist.

ANDERSON & WHITELAW, LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 1,500*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To take over the business of H. A. Pepper, surgical instrument maker, 11 Broad Street, Birmingham. The first directors are W. P. Anderson (chairman) and J. F. Whitelaw (both permanent). R.O., Waterlow Brothers & Layton, Ltd., Birchin Lane, London, E.C.

J. KNOX WALKER & CO., LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 4,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To take over the business of manufacturing chemists and wholesale and retail druggists carried on by S. L. Vaughan and G. Simpson as "J. Knox Walker & Co." The provisional directors are S. L. Vaughan and G. Simpson. R.O., 422 Kingsland Road, Dalston, London, N.E.

CHARLES E. JOHNSON & CO. (HULL), LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 10,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To take over the business carried on by Chas. E. Johnson & Co. at Scott Street, Hull, and to carry on the business of manufacturers of and dealers in starch, blue, dry soap, baking, egg, and custard powders, sulphur, tartaric acid, cream of tartar, etc. R.O., Britannia Starch-works, Scott Street, Hull.

RAYNER & CO., LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 4,000*l.* Objects: To take over the business carried on at Clerkenwell Green as "Rayner & Co." "Glass & Co.," and "Millard & Co.," and to carry on the business of manufacturers of and dealers in essences, sauces, etc., makers of "Mrs. Batchelor's Hair Restorer," dealers in new and second-hand bottles, straw envelopes, and wood and glass stoppers, etc. The first directors are A. L. Hickman, C. B. H. Millard, G. T. Shephard, and T. H. Stockwell.

Company News.

ARSENIC OF SPAIN CO., LTD.—In voluntary liquidation. Liquidator, Monsieur Emile Nader, 47 Rue Vivienne, Paris.

VENO DRUG CO., LTD.—At the annual meeting last week a bonus of 550*l.* was voted to the Chairman (Mr. W. E. Veno), in recognition of his services in the past five years.

CASTLE DRUG CO., LTD., 16 Castle Street, Dudley.—To be voluntary wound up. Liquidator, Mr. A. P. Taylor, C.A., 14 New Street, Birmingham. Meeting of creditors at 14 New Street, Birmingham, on February 28, at 3 p.m.

JOHN OAKLEY & SONS, LTD.—The report for 1912 states that the net profits, including 7,433*l.* brought forward, amount to 39,121*l.* The directors recommend the payment of a final dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making a total of 10 per cent. for the year, and in addition a bonus of 5 per cent., free of income-tax.

INTERNATIONAL SPONGE IMPORTERS, LTD.—The report for the year ended December 31, 1912, states that the net profit for the period, after providing for all outgoing and depreciations, amounts to 14,202*l.*, to which must be added balance from last account 600*l.*, making together 14,803*l.* This is appropriated as follows: Amount of preference-share dividend for the year, 7,500*l.*; interim dividend of 2½ per cent. upon the ordinary shares, 3,911*l.*; proposed further dividend of 1¼ per cent. upon the ordinary shares, 1,955*l.*; general reserve, 670*l.*; balance to be carried forward, 766*l.* In accordance with the articles of association, the sum of 670*l.* has been credited to the reserve fund, and 901*l.* has been further written off freehold and leasehold property, plant, and machinery, bringing the amount written off to date to 9,756*l.* As stated in the last report, the balance of extraordinary expenditure for law costs, etc., was carried forward at 1,175*l.* This figure has now been reduced to 800*l.*, and this after providing for other expenditure of this nature incurred during the past year. The war between Italy and Turkey, followed by the war between Greece and Turkey, has greatly disorganised the Mediterranean sponge fisheries. In order to secure a supply ahead of the requirements of the company for 1912, the directors have been compelled to purchase on a rising market, and this has undoubtedly affected the gross profits, inasmuch as the directors deemed it inadvisable to increase selling prices.

A READY-RECKONER for Insurance prescription pricing is the C. & D. card, price 6*d.*, by post 7*d.*, from 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

BIRTH.

HAWORTH.—At Samaris, Jersey, on February 17, the wife of Frank Haworth, pharmacist, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

LOWE—CROSS.—At St. Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, recently, Thomas Ford Lowe, youngest son of Mr. R. T. and Mrs. Lowe, Bridgnorth, to Helen Mary Cross, younger daughter of Alderman W. Gowen Cross, pharmaceutical chemist, and Mrs. Cross, Shrewsbury.

Silver Wedding.

ALLEN—DUDLEY.—At the Church of All Saints, Londenerry, on February 14, 1888, by the Rev. Goolde Adams, William Popham Allen, Ph.C., youngest son of Christopher Antisell Allen, M.D., Dublin, to Sarah Moffatt, youngest daughter of the late John Stuart Dudley, and granddaughter of the late Guildford Moffatt Dudley, of Mount Dudley, Roscrea.

DEATHS.

ADAIR.—On January 18, suddenly, at his residence, Herne Hill, S.E., Mr. John F. Adair, aged forty-nine years. Mr. Adair was the founder of Messrs. J. F. Adair & Co., shellac merchants, Dunster House, Mincing Lane, E.C., and prior to commencing business on his own account was market clerk with Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co. His partner, Mr. Percy Prior, will continue the business.

BERRY.—At Woodville, Honor Oak, London, on February 14, Katherine Stevenson, wife of Mr. John C. Berry, chemist and druggist, 96 Craven Park Road, Harlesden, London.

BRÜNING.—The death is reported at St. Moritz of Herr Gustav von Brüning, a director of the Höchst Farbwerke vormals Meister Lucius & Brüning. Herr von Brüning's chief interest to British pharmacists lies in his early recognition of the value of Behring's antidiphtheria serum at a time when Dr. Behring found no encouragement, Herr Brüning placing a stable at his disposal with the necessary horses for the production of the serum. Among the many synthetic products introduced during the directorship of Herr von Brüning were antipyrin, salvarsan, and synthetic indigo.

COOPER.—At The Pharmacy, High Street, Aldeburgh-on-Sea, on February 16, Mr. Frederick Thomas Cooper, chemist and druggist, aged seventy-two. Mr. Cooper went to Aldeburgh from Long Stratton some twenty-six years ago, setting up a small pharmacy in High Street. He removed five years later to larger premises, where he soon built up a successful connection. Mr. Cooper was a prominent Mason, having passed most of the high degrees. He was Secretary to the Adair Lodge. A widow and several sons and daughters are left to mourn his loss.

CORDER.—At Olds, Alberta, Canada, on February 13, Mr. Edward Corder, Ph.C., aged fifty-one. Mr. Corder was until recently in business in partnership with his brother, Mr. J. T. Corder, chemist, Norwich, but since the death of his father, the late Mr. Octavius Corder, he had retired from the firm and gone out to Canada. Mr. Corder had always been interested in open-air pursuits, including farming, natural history, angling, and cycling.

DINGLE.—On February 9, Mr. Richard Hawke Dingle, chemist and druggist, Wadebridge, aged eighty-six. Mr. Dingle was in business prior to the Pharmacy Act of 1868, and was formerly at the Poplar Union Dispensary, Bow, London, E.

GARROW.—At 173 Mid Street, Keith, on February 15, Mr. William Garrow, chemist and druggist, aged seventy-two. Mr. Garrow had not been feeling well for a few days, and on Saturday morning had risen to go to the shop. On returning he collapsed at the foot of the stairs,

and was removed to bed, but expired in a very short time. He was a native of Keith, and after serving his apprenticeship became assistant with Mr. Begg, Golspie, and afterwards with Mr. Carmichael and Mr. Prentice of Edinburgh before returning to take up business in Keith, which he did before the Pharmacy Act of 1868. A few years afterwards he succeeded to the business of Mr. William Farquharson, chemist, druggist, and bookseller, which was ultimately transferred to the north end of Mid Street, where he built up a large connection. A few years ago he gave over the business to his younger son, Mr. R. W. Garrow, Ph.C. His elder son is Mr. W. Garrow, who represents Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd., in Scotland. Mr. Garrow was highly esteemed in the district.

HALSTEAD.—On February 18, Mr. Harry Halstead, chemist and druggist, 53 High Street, Rishton, Lancs. Mr. Halstead was apparently quite well on Monday, but on the following morning he was in great pain, and suddenly passed away. Mr. Halstead, who was over sixty years of age, was an enthusiastic photographer, and had officiated as conductor of the parish church choir for nearly twenty years.

LINDSAY.—At 27 St. Swithin's Street, Aberdeen, on February 16, Jane Reid Sutherland, wife of Mr. John James Lindsay, chemist and druggist.

LONGMAN.—At Littlehampton on February 13, Mr. John Ham Longman, Ph.C., aged fifty-eight. Mr. Longman left Manchester in 1884 to take over the business of the late Mr. Thomas Padwick in High Street, Littlehampton. About eleven years later he removed to the present premises in Beach Road. Mr. Longman took a keen interest in public and church affairs, and was an ardent Mason. The funeral took place at the parish church on February 17.

MATTHEY.—At Rose Mount, Eastbourne, on February 14, Mr. George Matthey, F.R.S., of Cheyne House, Chelsea Embankment, aged eighty-eight. Mr. Matthey some seventy years ago joined the firm founded by the late Mr. P. N. Johnson, F.R.S., now Johnson, Matthey & Co., Ltd., assayers and gold-refiners, Hatton Garden, London, E.C., and was associated with the company up to six or seven years ago. He took an important part in the development of the uses of platinum and discovered a method of purifying it which consists in fusing the commercial metal with an excess of lead. He was engaged in association with Professor Sainte-Claire Deville in the preparation of the standard metre for the French Government. This standard, which is made of iridio-platinum, was shown at the Paris Exhibition in 1889, and was referred to in the *C. & D.* at the time where a sectional sketch of the bar was given. Mr. Matthey was decorated with the Order of the Legion of Honour for his work in this connection. In 1879 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was one of the managers of the Royal Institution, and on several occasions has taken the chair at the Friday evening discourses.

STEEL.—Recently, Mr. Richard Steel, chemist and druggist, Colsterworth, Lincs., aged eighty-one. Mr. Steel was in business at this village for many years. He also filled the duties of warden at the Parish Church.

WHYSALL.—On February 12, Mr. William Whysall, Ph.C., Green Hill, Barrowby Road, Grantham, aged seventy-three. Mr. Whysall, who had retired from business, left home on Wednesday of last week for his usual walk, and evidently got lost in the dense fog. He was found on the following day lying dead in a ditch by the side of the road leading from Denton to Harlaxton, some four miles from his home. Mr. Whysall, who had enjoyed excellent health, must have walked at least nine miles to get there. At the inquest on February 14, a verdict of death from exposure was recorded. Mr. Whysall, who was a native of Belper, was the oldest chemist in Grantham. He was apprenticed to Mr. Pedler, of Fleet Street, London, and came to Grantham in 1859 to take over the business of the late Mr. Hough in High Street. He retired about five years ago in favour of his son, Mr. G. Whysall. He leaves a widow and eight children.

National Health Insurance.

Administration of Medical Benefit as regards Chemists' Interests.

Medical Benefit Clerical Work.

(Statement by the Insurance Commissioners.)

The Insurance Commissioners have given careful consideration to the subject of the clerical work required from medical practitioners in connection with the administration of medical benefit, as to which they have received many suggestions from practitioners on the panels, based on their personal experience.

On Tuesday, February 4, the Commission received a deputation from the National Insurance Practitioners' Association, who submitted the results of inquiries which that Association had made among doctors engaged in the work. The deputation urged that the forms of records should be simplified, and stated that, so far as they could ascertain, a card system for the keeping of records would be generally preferred by the profession to the day-book at present in use, or, indeed, to any record in book form.

Amendments in the prescription form were suggested, and the deputation pressed for the substitution of duplicate, or even single, forms for the triplicates at present in use. They urged that the doctor should not be required to furnish to the patient a copy of the prescription for retention by the chemist (in addition to the one which the chemist would send to the Insurance Committee as a voucher for payment), and that it should be left to the doctor's own discretion whether he should retain a copy for his own use.

The deputation raised questions also as to the methods to be adopted for allocation of insured persons among practitioners on the panel, the possibility of Insurance Committees making payments on account, before the end of the quarter, to practitioners in respect of the insured persons already on their list, and the simplification of the forms of certificates required by some Approved Societies in connection with the administration of Sickness Benefit.

These subjects were further considered at a conference held by the Insurance Commissioners at the Civil Service Commission, Burlington House, on Tuesday, February 11, to which every local medical committee recognised by the Commissioners under Section 62 of the Act, and also every committee which had applied for recognition, had been invited to send a representative. About eighty were present.

The first subject discussed was the procedure and forms in connection with the acceptance of an insured person by a doctor for inclusion in his list. It was stated on behalf of the Commissioners that there would not be another general issue of the red tickets, the use of which was a temporary measure required by the special circumstances incidental to the bringing into operation of medical benefit on January 15. The only clerical work required of a doctor in future, in connection with the acceptance of an insured person on his list, would be the filling up of a form of acceptance, and this would not be required in respect of any insured person already accepted by him. In other words, after the completion of the first general assignment, the filling up of forms of acceptance will only be necessary in the case of insured persons changing from one doctor to another, those coming into a district, and those entering for the first time into insurance.

It was further stated that each Insurance Committee would send to each doctor on the panel, in respect of each insured person notified by him as accepted on his list, a card containing that person's name, address, and other particulars. These cards would constitute the doctor's list of the insured persons for the time being recognised by the Committee as under his care. After some discussion, in which some of those attending expressed preference for a single continuous list, it was clear that the proposed card system was preferred by the majority of the conference.

On the subject of records there were marked differences of opinion. A few favoured the continuance of the present day-book, simplified by the omission of the patient's society and number, and reduced in size; while some urged that the record should be kept in a book retained

by the patient which he should produce each time he was attended by the doctor. It was clear, however, that a large majority considered a card system the best. A form of card was placed before the conference, and was generally approved subject to modifications in detail. Some speakers urged that the records should be confined to those cases in which sick pay was received, but the preponderating feeling was in favour of such records as were required being obtained in respect of all cases treated.

Objections were raised to the triplicate prescription form, and also to the requirement that drugs not included in the list adopted by the Committee must be ordered on a special form. On the former subject the Commissioners stated that they had decided not to require the triplicate, and to leave the keeping of a duplicate to the discretion of the doctor. Note was taken of the suggestion that when a special drug was ordered, some distinctive mark might be made on the ordinary form instead of using a special form. Suggestions were also made for detailed modifications of the prescription forms with a view to the convenience of the prescriber.

In addition to these questions of clerical work members of the Conference were invited to raise any other points to which they desired to draw attention with a view to facilitating the work of doctors in connection with medical benefit. Points were brought forward as to the method to be adopted for the distribution of those insured persons who made no choice, or were rejected by the doctors of their choice, the method of distribution of the medical benefit fund where a capitation system was adopted, and the grant for mileage.

It was explained that the method of distribution of insured persons among the doctors on the panel was one primarily for consideration by those doctors themselves, who could draw up a scheme for the purpose. It would be possible, under a scheme approved by them, to permit a doctor to take on his list only a small number of insured persons, or to confine his list to persons of a defined class. The Insurance Committee would require to be satisfied that the scheme was such as to secure that every insured person was provided with medical attendance, that an excessive number was not assigned to any one doctor, and that an insured person was not unreasonably assigned to a doctor living at a distance from him. It was also explained that the method of distribution of the capitation allowance, in cases in which the allocation of insured persons was not completed before the end of the quarter, was also a matter for the consideration primarily of the doctors on the panel, who should make arrangements with the Insurance Committee.

Where desired, Insured Committees would be able to make payments to doctors on account (*e.g.*, at the end of the first month) in respect of the insured persons already accepted on their lists.

As to the mileage grant, the Insurance Committees were collecting information as to the cases in their own areas in which special circumstances justifying a claim appeared to exist. The Committees would report to the Commissioners who would distribute the grant after due consideration of all the claims.

CONFERENCE OF DOCTORS AND PHARMACISTS IN SCOTLAND.

By invitation of the Chairman of the National Health Insurance Commission (Scotland) the following pharmacists attended a Conference between representatives of forty-four Local Medical Committees in Scotland, Scottish pharmacists, and the Scottish National Insurance Commissioners, in the Palace Hotel, Princes Street, Edinburgh, on Friday, February 14, at 2 p.m.:—Messrs. W. G. Boyd, Kilmarnock; C. A. Connan, Inverness; J. J. Forbes, Perth; D. Gilmour, Dunfermline; J. P. Gilmour, Glasgow, Chairman of the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee (Scotland); James Henry, Galashiels; A. G. Laidlaw, Lockerbie; Balfour Reekie, Hamilton; G. H. C. Rowland, Edinburgh; Charles Simpson, Aberdeen; D. M. Skinner, Joan; J. H. Thomson, Dundee; and J. Rutherford Hill, Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee (Scotland). At the Conference many matters of practical interest to pharmacists in connection with the working of medical benefit were discussed. Subsequently

an official report of the proceedings was issued, from which we quote the following:

As a result of the discussion—

(1) The Commissioners agreed to confer with the other Commissions, with a view to the medical day-book now in use being continued only in a modified form, and they let it be known that they would consider whether it would be practicable in the area of any Insurance Committee, if so desired by practitioners, to allow a card system of medical records to be adopted in place of the day-book. It was, however, admitted by the representatives that it would not be practicable for the day-book and card system to be used concurrently in any one area.

(2) The Commissioners agreed that modifications in the binding, perforation, and texture and colour of paper of the model form of medical prescription-book would be considered, so as to obviate inconvenience in making carbon copies of prescriptions; but in view of the labour which would otherwise devolve upon chemists in transcribing prescriptions, the general sense of the meeting was that the arrangement for providing the chemist with a carbon duplicate should still hold, while provision should continue to be made for enabling a practitioner who so desired to retain a copy of his prescription.

(3) The Commissioners agreed that proposals for the continuation of the use of the medical ticket for identification purposes and for the extension of its use as a means of informing insured persons of hours of consultation and other particulars should be considered; but the Commissioners indicated that they might be unable to accept these proposals on account of clerical and other labour involved.

(4) The utility of a uniform medical certificate for all Approved Societies, and of uniform "declaring on" and "declaring off" notices in combination with such certificate, was strongly urged by the representatives of local Medical Committees present. The Commissioners agreed that these suggestions would receive attentive consideration with a view to the wishes of medical practitioners being met, while at the same time other important interests were safeguarded.

It is noted in the report that the statement issued to the Press by the Insurance Commissioners (the Statutory designation of the National Health Insurance Commission, England) does not apply to Scotland, and it will be observed that the above terms of modification differ from the English terms.

District Committees.

The following have been elected to represent chemists and kindred bodies on the District Insurance Committees under the Leicestershire Insurance Committee: *Ashby-de-la-Zouch*, Messrs. E. L. Parker, — Glover; *Coalville*, Messrs. J. H. M. Land, B. Simpson; *Hinckley*, Messrs. A. W. Crofts, N. S. White; *Leicester* (surrounding places), Messrs. B. Thatcher, C. J. Avery; *Loughborough* (surrounding places), Messrs. F. Smith, — Walton; (Borough), Messrs. W. F. Charles, A. White; *Lutterworth*, Mr. A. Buswell; *Market Harborough*, Messrs. P. Styles, A. J. Freeland; *Melton Mowbray*, Messrs. J. Gill, J. Attenburrow.

The following have been elected to represent the chemists on the various District Committees in Kent under the National Insurance Act: *Bromley*, Mr. H. D. Kelf; *Chatham*, Mr. W. H. Westmoreland; *Deal*, Mr. H. J. Wood (Sandwich); *Dover*, Mr. J. F. Brown; *Faversham*, Mr. T. J. Thomas; *Folkestone*, Mr. C. J. Taylor; *Gravesend*, Mr. R. F. Clarke; *Gillingham*, Mr. A. Stook; *Maidstone*, Mr. A. F. Corfe; *Margate*, Mr. J. Eastland; *Ramsgate*, Mr. H. J. Pavey; *Rochester*, Mr. W. E. Clarke (Strood); *Tunbridge Wells*, Mr. A. E. Hobbs; *Beckenham*, Mr. J. G. Anderson; *Dartford*, Mr. E. Ockwell (Crayford); *Eritth*, Mr. R. W. Morris; *Penge*, Mr. H. Payne; *Ashford*, Mr. J. Ingall; *Canterbury*, Mr. T. B. Cornfoot (Herne Bay); *Sevenoaks*, Mr. T. Parsons; *Sittingbourne*, Mr. J. E. French.

The question of the representation of chemists upon the Hackney Borough Insurance Committee was discussed at a meeting of the local Borough Council on February 13. Before the November elections the North London Chemists' Association had communicated with the various candidates for election, and most of them agreed to support a pharmacist nominee. A further communication stated that Councillor Pentney, chemist and druggist, had been selected on behalf of the chemists. Councillor Ray said that now chemists had direct representation on the Committee they could not expect a second representative. Councillor Hasmer, one of the nominees, offered to retire in favour of Councillor Pentney, but the other councillors would not permit this. Councillor Pentney protested against members being false to their promises, but the Council declined to appoint a second chemists' representative.

Dispensing Arrangements.

Being reports of meetings and notes on other matters from various local centres.

Aberdeen.—On Wednesday, February 12, panel pharmacists discussed dispensing topics from 9.30 p.m. to 12.30 a.m. Various ingenious methods for making the most of the tariff were talked about, and it was surprising how harmoniously everybody disagreed about fractions, pricing, and the like. Since the meeting the local Insurance Committee has called in accounts for the month ending February 14, and the diversity of views still prevails.

Acton.—Chemists in this district have applied to the Middlesex Insurance Committee to be allowed to charge double fees for dispensing between 9.30 p.m. and 8.30 a.m. on weekdays and during closing hours on Sundays; also to use Messrs. Allen & Hanburys' wholesale list as the price-basis of drugs not on the tariff list.

Bath.—At a meeting of the Bath Pharmaceutical Association on Wednesday, February 19, Mr. Luther Wilson in the chair, the Secretary (Mr. Hawes) reported that the Organisation Committee had not yet been able to meet the local Insurance Medical Service Committee, but that a deputation was invited for March 6 to discuss late fees, etc. Many questions of interest with regard to Insurance dispensing and intricacies of pricing the prescriptions were brought forward, and the exchange of opinions proved very helpful. Mr. Riches gave much information as to the experiences of pharmacists in other towns. The discussion indicated that the system is working very well in Bath, but that numerous minor points in the tariff require adjustment.

Berkshire.—At a meeting of the Insurance Committee on February 15, Mr. H. R. Metcalf reported on a meeting with the doctors respecting the drug tariff. While the chemists objected very strongly to many of the charges being insufficient, it was agreed to supply the drugs according to the tariff, subject to one or two slight alterations, for the first three months. It was agreed that the deposit on the bottle should not be refunded by the chemists, and that lint dressings, etc., should be charged at the ounce rate up to $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. It was agreed that each locality should arrange with its own doctors certain hours for dispensing when shops are ordinarily closed, and that a fee of 3d. be given for "urgent" prescriptions.

Bradford.—After the paper by Mr. Granville Shaw (see Winter Session), the Bradford chemists discussed the position under the National Insurance Act. Mr. D. S. Priestley reported the proceedings of all the local meetings of the Bradford Insurance Committee in so far as they related to the rights and responsibilities of the pharmacists. Certain complaints of the Bradford Insurance Committee were reported. It was complained, for example, that insured persons had been told to go away and come back again in an hour, as the chemist was too busy to attend to them at once, and that at ten o'clock at night difficulty had been experienced in callers getting attended to at shops where the chemist lives on the premises. The Chairman reported also several complaints made in particular cases, and urged that all these causes of complaint should be avoided as far as possible by chemists, and every effort should be made to see that patients are attended to. Cases were mentioned in which doctors had dispensed medicines because the chemists' shops were closed on the Wednesday afternoon.

Cardiganshire.—The Insurance Committee had the "rural area" arrangement with doctors before them last week. Mr. Ellis complained that the mile limit excluded Aberystwith chemists from supplying persons in Llanbadarn. Dr. Davies said he did not think that doctors and chemists would come into conflict over that matter; all that doctors wanted was to be enabled to dispense in the future as they had done in the past; that would not prevent medical men making arrangements for dispensing by chemists as had hitherto been done. Mr. Chas. Evans moved that the distance should be two miles, but this motion was withdrawn, and it was decided to allow the doctors and chemists to arrange the question of dispensing. It was intimated that the Commissioners cannot allow 1s. per prescription for dispensing by chemists between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m., and the Committee decided that chemists should dispense when required up to closing hours, but not between then and 8 a.m. unless the prescription was marked "Urgent."

Chesterfield.—Mr. J. H. Toplis (Hon. Secretary of the Chesterfield and District Pharmacists' Association, informs us that the unsatisfactory working of the Medical Benefit in that district from the chemists' point of view, referred to in the note last week, index folio 253, is due to the Chesterfield and District Medical Aid, and not to the Chesterfield doctors.

Doncaster.—The monthly meeting of the Doncaster Association of Pharmacists was held at the Albany Hotel on February 11, the President (Mr. W. E. Plant) in the chair. There were also eight members present, and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. Harry W. Stiles). The Secretary reported that the sale of "Doncaster Pharmacopoeia" had far exceeded his expectations. The meeting discussed and agreed upon the charges for the mixtures contained therein, which after being submitted to the local Medical Committee will be sent to the Insurance Committee at Wakefield for approval.

Dorset. Mr. J. W. Cussons, Hon. Secretary of the Dorset County Pharmacists' Association, is co-operating with the Clerk to the Insurance Committee in regard to the dispensing arrangements for the year following April 15, 1913. Mr. Cussons has issued a circular asking for particulars of the work done from January 15 to February 14 inclusive, so as to get some idea how the funds available will meet the bills. Mr. Cussons adds: "If every chemist will supply these particulars promptly, we shall know whether the Bankruptcy Clause (Regulation 43, Clause 2) is likely to come into operation, and at our meeting on Wednesday, February 25, we shall be able definitely to decide what attitude our Association should take up."

Danfermline.—With reference to the report that local chemists are withdrawing from the dispensing panel, Mr. David Gilmour, Divisional Secretary for West Fife, writing to the "Danfermline Journal" of February 15, states that the statement is incorrect, no resolution of the kind having been adopted.

Fife.—At a well-attended meeting of the Fifeshire Pharmaceutical Association at Kirkcaldy on Wednesday, February 19, Mr. James Bisset in the chair, it was agreed that considerable alterations would require to be made in several important directions before the tariff could be deemed even tolerable. A list of suggested alterations was drawn up, to be forwarded to the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee. These included:

A higher dispensing-fee in most cases; abolition of flat rate for tinctures, infusions, etc.; raising the minimum price for ingredients; a dispensing-fee on all prescriptions; the higher rate to be charged up to half dram or half ounce, as the case may be, not quarter dram or ounce as at present; all containers to be charged.

A vote of thanks to the President closed the meeting.

Gateshead.—Mr. Manners presided at a meeting of the Gateshead Chemists' Association held on February 6, when 7 to 8 p.m. was fixed for Sunday opening. Insurance matters were discussed. A member reported that crushed linseed is being ordered, and it was thought better to supply when ordered on a pink form. The local Pharmacopoeia was submitted to the meeting, and accepted. The C. & D. pricing cards were distributed, and were highly appreciated. The Insurance dispensing in Gateshead is being carried out in a most satisfactory manner, the number of prescriptions being high.

Ipswich.—A meeting of the Ipswich Chemists' Association was held at the Great White Horse Hotel on February 13, Mr. J. T. Jackson in the chair. Nine other members were present, and Mr. W. H. Stones (Hon. Secretary). Insurance dispensing was discussed, it being stated that 5,000 prescriptions had been dispensed in four weeks, one chemist having reached fifty-seven in one day. Three new members were elected.

Isle of Wight.—This island, writes a local correspondent, was one of the last strongholds of the "die hards" under the Insurance Act, but after a month of Insurance prescribing and dispensing, and speaking generally, things are working very smoothly. No official meeting of the pharmacists with the Medical Committee has been held, but the doctors in most towns on the island have been interviewed collectively, and most amicable relations established or confirmed. At the suggestion of the doctors in Cowes, they and pharmacists alike display notices to the effect that medicines may only be obtained during the usual business hours, unless the script be marked "Urgent" by the prescriber. This works well, and saves many unnecessary calls. In certain quarters the medical men have just realised the possibilities of the mile-limit proviso, and some chemists in consequence have received the request that any scripts given to persons residing without the mile radius should be returned to the prescriber, who will pay the amount due. In one district patients are having a good innings with proprietary preparations. In another area predilection has been shown for crutches, foot-supports, trusses, and ring pessaries, which in some instances have been supplied. A sore point with some "panel men" is that they are not obtaining an equal share of Insurance dispensing. The fact that there is free choice of chemist has been well advertised by the local Pharmacists' Association,

and where it is suspected that a medical man is not aware of this provision the pharmacists affected should inform the doctor, and not necessarily expect the Hon. Secretary of the Association to do it for him. It is hoped to average Insurance accounts half-way through the quarter, in order to get some idea of the likelihood, or otherwise, of "discounting."

Lincolnshire.—At a meeting of the Holland Insurance Committee last week a letter was read from Mr. G. W. Smithson, chemist and druggist, Swineshead, offering his services in checking the chemists' accounts. The Clerk stated that Mr. Smithson was on the panel of chemists, and therefore could not act. [Members of the Pharmaceutical Committee, whether on the panel or not, are required by the regulations to check finally.—EDITOR, C. & D.] It was moved that the Boston Hospital should be put on the dispensing panel, provided a nurse is kept who is qualified to administer and mix drugs. The Clerk announced that Dr. South had made an application to this effect; and Mr. Cheshire, in moving that the request be granted, subject to the approval of the Commissioners, observed that they could hardly expect the hospital porter to run out to the chemist in the town when drugs were in the hospital. The motion was carried. [This is *ultra vires*, as the hospital does not carry on the business of a chemist in accordance with the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908.—EDITOR, C. & D.]

Manchester.—After the lecture reported under Winter Session, about thirty-five members stayed to discuss a notice that has been received from the Insurance Committee of the Manchester Pharmaceutical Association. It is to the following effect:

1. That distilled water be used and charged for in all prescriptions where "Aqua" is ordered.
2. That prices for quantities under two drachms must not exceed the quarter-ounce price.
3. That a dispensing-fee be charged on a single uncompounded powder when a dose is ordered, because such dose requires weighing and checking. Uncompounded powders ordered in bulk to be supplied without fee.
4. That a dispensing-fee be charged on all liquids except in the case of olive oil, castor oil, cod-liver oil, malt extract, and malt extract and oil.
5. That in charging wools, lints, etc., quantities up to and including 4 oz. to be charged at ounce rate, over 4 oz. at the pound rate.
6. That in pricing proprietary and other articles which do not come within the scope of the rules on the front page of the tariff, 33½ per cent. of cost be added to cost price; makers' minimum price, P.A.T.A. price, or face-value not to be exceeded and to be charged where minimum prices are in force.
7. Prescriptions already priced should be altered where prices do not agree with these rules.

These rules have created some stir in pharmaceutical ranks, as many chemists, who have been charging 5iss. as 1½d., cannot see why they should not take what the tariff offers them. On the other hand, the aqua question has been the cause of much discussion; but taking the rules as a whole it is considered a very wise move on the part of the Insurance Committee to take steps to ensure uniformity of pricing. Unfortunately, the prices ruling under the Salford district are different, and as many of the Manchester chemists are getting both Salford and Manchester prescriptions, it is likely to cause a little confusion. For instance, in Salford they are not using aqua dest. except when expressly ordered by the doctor, and are charging 5iss. of tinctures at 1½d., whereas in Manchester it will be 1d.

Perthshire.—A deputation from the Perthshire Pharmacists' Association met the local Health Insurance Committee on February 11 to discuss the drug and dispensing tariff. Mr. Donald (President) stated that the tariff was hastily forced upon pharmacists; and Mr. Forbes explained how it had been drawn up, giving examples to prove how unremunerative the prices are for the best quality drugs. Statistics of prescriptions dispensed in Perth during the first month of service indicate that the drug fund at the disposal of the Committee will show a surplus of several hundred pounds; therefore it was strongly urged that the Committee recommend that the following be adopted:

1. A higher minimum—i.e. 1d. per item.
 2. A quarter of a dram or ounce or larger quantity to be charged at dram or ounce rate as the case may be.
 3. A dispensing-fee after 10 p.m.
- The necessity of increasing the following was also submitted:
1. Dispensing-fee for every prescription, or a minimum charge of 3d.
 2. Flat prices for waters, infusions, tinctures, and spiritus abolished.
 3. Increased price for all drugs presently priced under cost.
- The members of the Committee generally had not seen the tariff. Ultimately a small committee was formed to confer

with the Pharmaceutical Committee. The deputation also had an interview with the medical men in Perth, and had an interchange of opinions with them, the doctors signifying their willingness to co-operate with the pharmacists in every possible way, and it was agreed to submit suggestions.

Portsmouth.—Chemists on the panel have taken a firm attitude against stock mixtures. They met at the County Club on Tuesday, February 18, under the chairmanship of Mr. T. A. White, who referred to the sub-committee which had met the doctors, and produced a list of six stock or "basic" mixtures which it is intended to prescribe. Several members spoke very strongly against the proposal, and declared that the principle of the stock mixture would never receive their consent, and that they would oppose it to the bitter end. Mr. Atterbury argued that for the good of the craft and for future generations chemists should not neglect the present chance of rescuing dispensing from doctors' surgery methods. Mr. Rhodes proposed and Mr. Bown seconded "That the Portsmouth panel of chemists is absolutely opposed to the introduction of stock mixtures as being contrary to the interests of the insured." This was carried by a large majority.

Reading.—The Insurance Committee has agreed that one-twenty-fourth of the amount available for drugs, etc., from January to April 1913 (i.e., 1*l.* per insured person) shall be paid into a special fund for paying an extra dispensing-fee for "Urgent" prescriptions after hours.

Somersetshire.—The Insurance Committee has asked chemists in the county to render their accounts on the 15th of each month. The chemists in Frome have arranged for one hour's service (7 to 8 P.M.) on early-closing days, taking duty in rotation. The doctors have agreed to the arrangement, they being notified each week as to which chemist will be on duty.

Sussex (West).—The Insurance Committee has decided the "rural area" arrangement with doctors in accordance with the regulations. It was mentioned at the meeting that if a prescription is marked "Urgent," whether in the daytime or at night, the chemist must dispense it.

Yorkshire.—At a meeting of the West Riding Insurance Committee last week, a sub-committee reported that it would not be safe to place herbalists on the panels. An amendment referring back the matter, with a view to permission being given to insured persons to make their own arrangements with herbalists if they desired to do so, was defeated. The attention of the meeting was directed by Mr. Pickard (Ossett) to the action of doctors writing prescriptions of the "repeat" type where they were consulted by an insured person, and consequent trouble to chemists. Attention was also called to a Meltham chemist's shop being closed under the Shops Act, so that persons had had to go back to the doctor, who had charged 2*s.* for dispensing a prescription. This and other matters are being referred to a special committee, but the Committee has in the meantime approved an arrangement whereby doctors may dispense when chemists' shops are closed for the half-day, and at night-time and on Sundays, the doctors to charge according to the chemists' tariff. It was also intimated that the Commissioners approve the payment of extra dispensing-fees for dispensing after shop hours of prescriptions marked "Urgent," but they do not approve of a minimum fee for dispensing such prescriptions.

Points in Practice.

Being questions and answers in regard to difficulties of administration and interpretation experienced by "C. & D." readers.

HUNYADI JANOS WATER.—*O. H. W.* (184/35).—If a doctor prescribes this water on a pink form the chemist must supply it. It is a medicine.

PILLS ON TARIFF, BUT NOT IN STOCK.—*Pharmacist* (240/35). No dispensing-fee is allowed for such pills when not in stock and made fresh for each patient.

ANTIPHLOGISTINE.—*G. W. H.* (241/59) asks if he may dispense this if it is prescribed by a panel doctor. [Yes; it is a medicine within the terms of the Act and Regulations.]

TUBERCULIN.—*P. I. M.* (239/££) supplied twelve tubes T.R. tuberculin (cost 20*s.*) ordered on a pink form by a panel doctor. Will the Insurance Committee pay for it? [No. The supply of tuberculin comes under the sanatorium provisions, and not under the Medical Benefit provisions. There is nothing in the Act or Regulations authorising chemists on the dispensing panel to supply tuberculin or other drugs for sanatorium treatment.]

PRESCRIPTION FORMS, MISTAKE OF.—*Verax* (235/17) says that the doctors in his district are ordering ordinary drugs on pink forms, and special drugs on green forms. He has drawn their attention to the matter, but they do not

seem to take any notice. Will the Insurance Committee pay the bill in a case like this? he asks. [Yes. There is nothing in the contract between the Insurance Committee and the chemist requiring the latter to discriminate between the colours; on the other hand, it requires the chemist to supply the drugs or appliances mentioned in the order to the person presenting it.]

DOCTOR DISPENSING.—*C. B. G.* (242/42) informs us that one of the doctors in his locality, who has 1,700 insured persons on his list, insists on dispensing for them, and does not write prescriptions. Is he acting legally? [If the place is a rural area, and the Insurance Committee has agreed to pay the doctor the *per capita* 9*s.*, including medicine, the doctor is within his rights. If no such arrangement has been come to, he will not be paid for the medicine. There is nothing in the Act or regulations to prevent doctors supplying free physic, or to compel them to write prescriptions for chemists to dispense.]

DOCTORS, SUPPLIES TO.—*J. W.* (238/72) asks: "May a medical man be supplied with tariff appliances without charge to him, if he writes his order to the chemist on Insurance form, the same being charged to the Committee; and will the Committee pass the same for payment to the chemist?" [We quoted last week, under "Continuous Service," the regulation which enables Insurance Committees to supply doctors with drugs and appliances required for immediate use. Unless a chemist has a special arrangement with his Insurance Committee for supplying doctors, he will not be paid by the Committee for anything he supplies to the doctor.]

DENBIGH RULING.—*Pharmacist* (240/35) wants to know how he and other chemists in Denbigh stand in regard to proprietary articles which they supplied by doctors' orders to insured persons prior to the circular-letter quoted last week (*C. & D.*, February 15, index folio 265). [We presume that the charges for such supplies will have priority of payment among the charges reserved for consideration in the final adjustment. The Pharmaceutical Committee will consider all charges, and "Pharmacist" may rely that he will get fair play, but the guarantee of payment for medicines is to the extent only of 2*s.* per insured person, and if that is not enough to go round, chemists have agreed to *pro rata* payments. It is to be expected, therefore, that all will exercise care in seeing that they do not supply appliances which are not on the schedule, nor foods or other articles which are not ordinarily supplied free by doctors to patients. If chemists do supply such things, they are not entitled to be paid for them by Insurance Committees.]

AQUA IN PRESCRIPTIONS.—The legal obligation in regard to "aqua" in physicians' prescriptions was expressed in the British Pharmacopœia, 1855, distilled water alone being recognised by it, and it is authoritative in such matters. The 1898 recognises aqua destillata only. There would be no difficulty in proving by evidence that it is the practice of dispensing chemists generally to use distilled water for "aqua" in prescriptions. That is what we meant when speaking of legal obligations. See *C. & D.*, January 25, February 1, and February 15. There is nothing to prevent any doctor and chemist coming to a mutual agreement in regard to Insurance or other local prescriptions to dispense tap-water whenever the doctor prescribes "aqua," but from the point of view of pharmacy generally this is most unsatisfactory, because the composition of tap-water varies according to the locality from which it is drawn. Thus London water is a totally different article from Glasgow water, and the moorland waters supplied to some towns in England are artificially hardened with chalk.

INACCURATE (?) PRESCRIBING.—The following prescription was mentioned by "J. W. C." last week:

Liquor. ammon.,			
Potass. nitrat.	...	...	aa. ʒss.
Tr. scillæ	...	...	ʒij.
Aq. chloroformi ad	...	...	ʒviij.—M.
ʒss. every four hours.			

Mr. William Couch (Chippenham) writes: "I entirely fail to see why your correspondent, 'J. W. C.,' should find it necessary to edit the prescription which he sends. The mixture is an eminently useful one, and it is sure to be a source of friction if such interference takes place, and the very thing most necessary to avoid. Squire gives the dose of liq. ammoniæ as 20 minims, and it was frequently used by the older type of doctor. The Pharmacopœia dose of potassium nitrate is 20 grains, so there is nothing at all to question. I trust that chemists will get out of the habit of regarding doctors as ignoramuses in writing prescriptions. There are plenty of them real good men with a pretty complete knowledge of therapeutics and pharmacognosy."

Pricing Problems.

Insurance prescriptions received by "C. & D." subscribers and submitted to us for pricing, because of exceptional or new points of interpretation. The principles upon which prescriptions are charged for are fully explained in the pricing-card supplied by the Book Department, "C. & D., price 6d., by post 7d.

1.	2.
Bism. carb. 3ij. 3ij. ... 4d.	Tr. benz. co. 3j. ... 4d.
Sodii bicarb. 3ij. 3ij. ... 4d.	Sig.: The inhalation as directed.
Mucil. tragac. q.s. (3j.) ... 1d.	Dispensing-fee ... 2d.
Aq. menth. p.p. ad 3viij. ... 1d.	
Dispensing-fee ... 2d.	6d.
8½d.	4.
3.	Tr. quin. ammon. 3j. ... 4d.
Ung. zinci vas. 3vj. ... 6d.	Aq. ad 3viij. ... 1d.
Dispensing-fee ... 6d.	Dispensing-fee ... 2d.
1s. 0½d.	7d.

BISMUTH MIXTURE.—*Maskee* (185/2) considers that, owing to special extra trouble in manipulation, an extra fee of 2d. for emulsion should be charged for No. 1. [A suspension is not necessarily an emulsion. The extra fee is not applicable in this case, as the mixture can be properly dispensed without using a mortar.]

CHARCOAL BISCUITS.—*W. H. B.* (242/1) wants to know what to charge for six charcoal biscuits, ordered on a pink form. He only had Bragg's in stock, so opened a shilling tin; it contained twenty-four. [The charge should be 3d.]

EMP. FERRI.—*J. M. S.* (240/59) asks the charge for emp. ferri (12×5), which is an unlisted plaster. [Presumably a plaster ready spread on calico was supplied, so charge the cost, 1d., plus one-third, and dispensing-fee 6d.; total, 7½d.]

INHALATION.—*Keneva* (234/53) asks if there is a dispensing-fee for No. 2. [Yes; it comes under "All liquid preparations for internal and external use."]

KEPLER SOLUTION.—*J. M. J.* (334/50).—Charge 33 per cent. on cost—i.e., 1s. 1½d. for the 2s. 6d. size.

LIN. TEREB.—*W. H. H.* (239/17) wants to know how he can find if the tariff price for lin. tercb. (½d.) is a printer's error. [This rate has been the subject of considerable discussion, but the price is ½d. per 1 oz. in the revised as well as the earliest versions of the tariff.]

LIQ. AMMON. ACET.—*Maskee* (185/2) wishes to know if the price for unlisted liq. ammon. acet. cone. 3ss. is 1d. or ½d. [The correct charge is ½d. Our correspondent goes on to say that he has persuaded his doctor to order instead "liquor. ammon. acet.," which is listed. This is a good solution of the difficulty.]

MALT-EXTRACT CONTAINERS.—*H. W.* (186/2) wishes to know if he is to charge for the container supplied with an order for 1 lb. of malt extract. [If this is supplied in a glass jar, a deposit of 2d. may be demanded. In most cases chemists are supplying malt extract specially put up for Insurance patients in 1-lb. tins, not charging for the container.]

MIXED OINTMENTS.—*H. E. F.* (242/8) has a prescription for "ung. zinci 3j. and ung. boracici 3j. M." He asks if the correct charge is 4d. [No, the charges are 3d. for the two ointments and dispensing fee 4d.—total 7d.]

OINTMENT FEES.—*J. F.* (240/47) asks us to reiterate the fact that the dispensing charge for 3j. of mixed ointment is 4d., as it is over 1 oz. avoirdupois.

PREPARATIONS, SEVERAL, ON ONE PRESCRIPTION.—*G. F. S.* (240/11).—There is no dispensing-fee for "acetylsalicylic acid gr. x., stat. sum.," even if it forms one of three items ordered on the same prescription. The dispensing-fees for a liniment and mixture on one script are, together, 4d. if each is under 8 oz.; glycerin acid tannic 3j. carries a dispensing-fee of 2d. *J. M. S.* (240/59) was also doubtful if there is a dispensing-fee for each preparation when there is more than one on the prescription.

PILL EXCIPIENT.—*S. F. W.* (238/17) asks if in pricing for twelve butyl-chloral pills (gr. iv.) a charge is to be made for excipient. [No; the dispensing-fee covers this.] *J. F.* (240/47) considers that he is entitled to charge for pill excipient. [We see no authority for it in the tariff.]

POTASS. CHLOR. TABLETS.—*J. M. J.* (334/50) asks the charge for 1 oz. of potassium chlorate tablets (seventy-six to the ounce). [The only mode of charging at present provided is 1d. for the active ingredient and 9d. dispensing-fee, total 10d. We think this will be altered.]

QUININE SUSPENSION.—No. 4 is sent for pricing by *Keneva* (234/53), apparently owing to the fact that it requires a suspending-agent if dispensed *secundum artem*. The added mucilage cannot be charged for unless authorised by the doctor, nor is an extra dispensing-fee for emulsion allowed. Compare replies in issue of February 8 under "Susten-

sions" (index folio 220), and to "Maskee" *re* bismuth mixture.]

SEIDLITZ POWDERS.—*G. F. S.* (240/11).—The tariff mode of charging (see under "Pulv. sod. tart. effor.") is by the ounce. Thus twelve powders weigh 12×198 grains, or 5 oz. 188 grains, and the charge is 5½d. There is no dispensing-fee.

SINGLE PILL.—*J. M. J.* (334/50).—On the whole we think that the dispensing-fee should be charged for a single pill compounded from the doctor's prescription, on the principle that the Pharmaceutical Committee may disallow it if they find a reason, which we cannot.

STOCK PILLS.—*G. A.* (214/15).—There is no distinction as regards Insurance dispensing between stock pills and pills made to order; accordingly a dispensing-fee is allowed on all unlisted pills. Charge 3½d. for "Pil. opii gr. j., mitte iij.," this being ½d. for the opium (not 1d., as you say) and 3d. dispensing-fee. *J. F.* (240/47) writes: "It is hard lines that the tariff should give us 3d. per dozen for factory-made pills when a troublesome recipe pill works out at less." He adds that he makes all his own pills. [From the tariff charge for listed pills it is evident that these are intended to be supplied, and when a chemist can supply an unlisted pill from stock it goes towards recouping him for any loss on other pills prescribed.]

"**TAB. ACETYLLOSAL CO.**"—*Keneva* (234/53) was informed by the prescriber that the tablets for his prescription, "tab. acetyllosal co. xij.," are made by Baiss Bros. & Stevenson, Ltd. He finds they cost 14s. per 1,000, and contain acid acetylsalicylic, phenacetin, and caffeine citrate, and asks what is the correct charge, and must the formula be written on Form A each time. [Charge cost (2d.), plus 33 per cent., and dispensing-fee (3d.), total 5½d. The formula need not be given at all if the name of the maker is added.]

"**TONGA.**"—*Nibro* (239/2) asks if this "Allenburys" preparation can legally be supplied under Insurance medical benefit. [Yes. Charge P.A.T.A. price, 2s. 5d., for the 2s. 9d. size, plus 2d. dispensing-fee.]

UNG. ZINCI VAS.—*Keneva* (234/53) wishes to know the mode of charging No. 3. [Charge for ingredients—zinc oxide 1d., and vaseline (1lb. tin in The British Drug Houses' list) 5½d.—plus dispensing-fee 6d.; total 1s. 0½d.]

An Easy Method of Filing Prescriptions.

The question of filing the prescriptions in such a way that one can refer to them easily when the inevitable "Rept. mist." comes along is one that requires settling at the beginning, before the prescriptions have had time to accumulate. Some advertised methods do not, to my mind, solve the problem. Only by a modification of the card index system can we deal with the matter in a satisfactory manner. A cheap outfit can be made by getting three wood soap-boxes (three-dozen tablets size). Then buy three sets of index cards—i.e., one set of alphabet cards, one set of daily cards, and one set of monthly cards. The stock size of 8 by 5 in. just answers the purpose. All that is required in addition is a weight to hold the cards in an upright position in the boxes. The scripts are filed as received in alphabetical order, the corresponding alphabet index card being behind—i.e., Jones's script in front of card "J," Brown's script in front of card "B"—the upright position being maintained. At the end of the day all the scripts would be in alphabetical order. Draw out the index cards and place the scripts just as they are in the next box, containing the daily index cards in front of the corresponding date card. In this manner proceed to the end of the month; then transfer scripts to the third box with the monthly index cards, first tying the bundle to economise space. At the end of the quarter, when the bill has been rendered, pack the scripts away in the Silverlock skillets, marking clearly the period covered on the end of each skillet. Prescriptions filed in this way can be referred to very quickly if the date is known. It is better to use a date on a bottle, instead of, or in addition to, a number, as the patient's bottle will often help the doctor to refer to the original script when dated, which a number alone would not do. A small set of drawers, counter size, for containing the cards can be obtained at the end of the provisional period. We shall know then exactly what size is required. The great advantage with card index systems is the ease with which an increasing number of papers can be filed—there is no fixed capacity. This method of filing does not interfere with the use of a register, such as Silverlock's, it is rather an aid to it.—*G. A. Mallinson.*

Some feeling has been caused in drug-trade circles in Sheffield by a letter in the "Sheffield Daily Telegraph," signed "B. M. A.," which, while showing the chagrin of the beaten, makes allegations against the incompetence of chemists. Replies to it have appeared.

PERSONALITIES.

Notes for this section sent to the Editor should be authenticated, and must not be in the nature of advertisements.

MR. JOHN B. ALDRICH, chemist, Castle Street, Eye, has been appointed a Justice of the Peace for that borough.

DR. FREDERICK TAYLOR, F.R.C.P., has been reappointed by the University of London as its representative on the General Medical Council.

MR. THOMAS B. CORNFOT, chemist and optician, 25A Mortimer Street, Herne Bay, has been re-appointed honorary optician to the local Cottage Hospital.

MR. N. A. WOOD, representative of Messrs. John Thompson, Ltd., Liverpool, was installed as Worshipful Master of the Goodacre Lodge, Bootle, on February 13.

MR. JOHN C. UMNEY, F.C.S., and Mrs. Umney are leaving next week for an Easter vacation in the South of France. Mr. Umney hopes to visit the flower fields of Cannes and Grasse during his stay.

MR. J. J. HOFMAN, 4 Schenkweg, The Hague, Secretary of the International Congress of Pharmacy, which is to be held this year in Holland from September 7 to 21, will be glad to forward on request copies of the programme of the Congress, which is printed in English, German, and French.

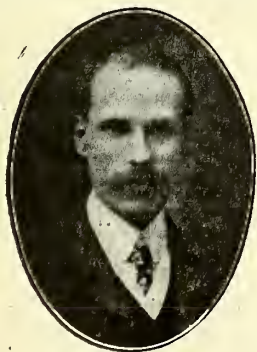
At a meeting of the prominent ratepayers of the North Division of the Borough of Kingston-on-Thames a committee was formed, of which Mr. Alfred Higgs, J.P., was elected chairman, to secure the return at the forthcoming Council election of Mr. R. N. Goodman, M.D.Lond., D.P.H., a prominent local medical man.

MR. CARL WEEKS, vice-president and general manager of Messrs. D. Weeks & Co., Des Moines, Iowa, U.S.A., has been in London this week on a business visit, and has now gone on the Continent. His firm are the makers of Weeks' Break-up-a-Cold Tablets and other preparations, their trade-mark being the figure of a bucking-horse with these words, "You can break a broncho in a week, but it takes Weeks to break up a cold in a day."

MR. A. BARTON KENT, F.R.G.S., Chairman of the Council of the "Entente Cordiale" Society, communicates to the first number of "France," the official organ of the Franco-British Travel Union, an interesting article on Comtat Venaissin and Camargue, in the course of which he describes an excursion made at Easter through part of the Departments of Vaucluse, Bouches-du-Rhône, and Gard. The illustrations, from photographs taken by Mr. Barton Kent, depict, amongst other noted objects, the Arenas at Nîmes, the Castle of René at Tarascon, and Julius Cæsar's Arch at St. Remy.

MR. FRANCIS RAIKES LE BLANC NEWBERY, managing director of Francis Newbery & Sons, Ltd., Charterhouse Square, London, E.C., has just completed the semi-jubilee of his connection with the business. Mr. Newbery is the second son of the late Mr. Lionel Newbery, and is the senior of the fifth generation of Newberys connected with the business, his cousin, Mr. Percy Le Blanc Newbery, also a director of the company, being his junior by two years. Mr. Francis Newbery was educated at Dulwich College, and joined the business in 1888. Mr. Percy Newbery, who is the son of Mr. Arthur Le Blanc Newbery, joined the firm eleven years later.

MR. DOUGLAS M. SPONG, chemist and druggist, Biggleswade, has for thirty-eight years been connected with the Biggleswade Fire Brigade, and has been Chief Officer of it during thirty-four years of that period. He is now



MR. F. R. L. NEWBERY.

retiring, and on Wednesday evening, February 12, he was presented at the Town Hall with a public testimonial in recognition of his services. The testimonial consisted of a fine gold watch, gold chain, and silver salver, along with an album containing an address. The "North Beds Courier" of February 14 devoted the better part of a page to an account of the public meeting at which the presentation was made.

DR. FRANK CLOWES, F.I.C., F.C.S., is retiring under the age-limit from the post of chemical adviser to the London County Council. The General Purposes Committee of the Council refer to the retirement thus:—

"We feel sure that the Council will regret the retirement of Dr. Clowes, whose valuable services have been rendered with zeal, and whose great scientific knowledge has been unreservedly at the disposal of the Council."

Dr. Clowes succeeded Mr. Dibdin as chemist to the Council in 1897. He was previously Professor of Chemistry at University College, Nottingham, and was born in Bradford in 1848.

TRADE NOTES.

TETLOW'S POWDER.—Messrs. Henry C. Quelch & Co., 4 Ludgate Square, London, E.C., announce in their advertisement in this issue an alteration in the price of Tetlow's Swandown Face Powder. Attention is drawn to the increased profit offered, and also to the bonus system.

WAIT-AND-SEE LIVER PILLS.—The Wait-and-See Proprietary, 13 and 14 Abchurch Lane, London, E.C., are starting a sample-distribution scheme, about which particulars are given in an advertisement in this issue. This is calculated to increase the sales of the Wait-and-See liver pills, and it behoves chemists to see that their stock is equal to the demand. (See also p. 51.)

WITH'S BOOKLET.—With's Chemical Manure Co., Aubrey Street, Hereford, has brought out a new edition of "How to Increase the Fruits of the Earth." This tells about the company's special agri-horticultural manures and other preparations for destroying insect pests or injurious bacteria. It is an interesting booklet, and should be a valuable means of pushing the sale of the articles advertised. Chemists who do a trade in packed horticultural specialties should write for a supply of these booklets.

INFORMATION FOR DOCTORS.—This quarterly publication ("Knoll's Mitteilungen für Aertze") by Messrs. Knoll & Co., of Ludwigshafen a. Rh., and 8 Harp Lane, London, E.C., is a most interesting compilation, in German, from medical publications in all parts of the world, of observations upon the various Knoll products. Each number is complete in itself, with an index to the numbered abstracts. They should be useful to prescribers and to those dispensers who keep in touch with medical progress for the benefit of their clients, especially as many prescriptions are given in each number.

SHOWCARD SERVICE FOR CHEMISTS.—The Bell Advertising Co., 56 Ludgate Hill, London, E.C., whose showcard service for chemists and their windows was described and illustrated in our Winter Issue, inform us that they have now arranged for a smaller service to suit chemists who change their windows twice a month. This will cost 5*l.* a year, and it should be of special service to the many who have most of their time and attention taken up with Insurance dispensing, to the exclusion of that most profitable of all business-bringers—the window. The Bell Advertising Co. do all the thinking out of that for their fee, providing also the cards fresh for every window.

ADVERTISING'S ARTFUL AIDS.—We have before us at the moment a selection of advertising folders and booklets prepared for C. & D. subscribers by that accomplished ad. specialist F. A. Degen. These are all attractive productions, and show a prolific originality. The whole gamut of the trade is run in these booklets—the retail pharmacist (provincial and metropolitan), the perfumer, the beauty specialist, the proprietary manufacturer, manufacturing chemist, etc. The particular areas of exploitation for which the samples before us have been designed embrace England, Scotland, Ireland, France, and South Africa, while some are cosmopolitan in their adaptation.

The favourite type of booklet for the local pharmacist appears to be an 8 pp. one with coloured cover (size 3 in. by 3½ in.). The importance of advertising as a part of the pharmacist's commercial equipment is now fairly well established, but the wise man usually finds it pays to consult a specialist in these matters. That accounts for the Degen success, which also must be attributable in part to the moderate fee charged for designing and writing a booklet.

POISONING FATALITIES.

NINE deaths due to taking poisons have been reported to us this week. Four of these were by misadventure.

Ammonia was the suicidal agent used by Ernest Webb (41) at Hooles.

Antipyrretic.—A verdict that "death was due to misadventure caused by an excessive dose of some drug taken in illness, and from which poisoning resulted," was returned at a Bridlington inquest on William Martin Brooks (53), retired solicitor, who had suffered from locomotor-ataxia. Mr. W. Wilson, chemist and druggist, manager of Taylor's Drug Co., said an assistant of his firm, who is at the moment in Leeds, had sold the deceased tablets of phenacetin or antipyrin, neither of which was a scheduled poison. Dr. Whitehead said that an excessive dose of either of these drugs would account for the symptoms.

Corrosive Sublimat.—A Westminster Coroner's jury found on February 14 that the death of an unknown man, who was found dead on a seat in Inverness Walk, Kensington Gardens, London, W., was due to corrosive-sublimate poisoning. The jury returned a verdict of "suicide," leaving the state of the man's mind an open question. On the following Monday the body was identified as that of Albert Ernest Bradshaw McManus (41), described as a chemist, of Upper Addison Gardens, West Kensington. It appeared that he had been out of employment for six months.

Laudanum.—A verdict of "Suicide while temporarily insane" was returned at the inquest at St. Anne's-on-Sea on John Pearson, retired engineer.

Morphine in accidental overdose caused the death of Dr. James Normile at Stepney.

Prussic Acid.—H. E. R. Banner, proprietor of a drugstore, was found dead in his shop at 50 London Road, Grantham, on February 15, from prussic-acid poisoning. Near his side was a poison-bottle containing a small quantity of diluted hydrocyanic acid, and a measure-glass with a number of drops of white fluid, afterwards found to contain a small proportion of prussic acid. Mr. E. R. Banner, chemist, 62 Byrom Street, Liverpool, identified deceased as his son, who, he said, traded as a druggist in Grantham, but was not a registered chemist. Deceased had no right to sell poisons. As a matter of fact, a qualified chemist would not sell prussic acid. It was used for dispensing. Deceased would have the acid in his shop in the ordinary course of business, and might require it for making up medicines. Deceased was a man of free habits, and witness was aware of the fact that he had been used occasionally to taking "pick-me-ups" containing prussic acid. Mr. Ernest Loughton, assistant, said he had seen deceased take doses to steady his nerves. He would take them once or twice a week, and always went to the poison-cupboard for bottles. He did not know what deceased took. Dr. Shipman said deceased may have taken an overdose. It was impossible to measure hydrocyanic acid correctly in the glass produced. The measuring could be done by getting drops off the stopper, but that was an uncertain way of doing it. The jury found a verdict of "Death from misadventure by taking an overdose of prussic acid, of which deceased was in the habit of taking."—Prussic acid was the suicidal agent used by Arthur Rogerson (35), of Camden Road, London, N.W., who was veterinary surgeon to the Midland Railway. Deceased was threatened with blindness owing to cataract.

Strychnine.—At the inquiry into the death of Veronica Bevan (39), of Clapham, London, S.W., the Coroner's jury returned a verdict that the deceased died of strychnine-poisoning, taken by herself, but for what purpose there was no evidence to show. Deceased was the wife of an actor, but was living apart from her husband. She had been attending the London College of Pharmacy as a student, and on the day previous to her death had been engaged with other students in making Easton's syrup. A fellow-student, who lodged at the same house, deposed that Mrs. Bevan had called out to him that she had taken four grains of strychnine.—Strychnine, contained in some "strengthening-tablets" caused the death of the four-year-old daughter of Wm. Pritchard, of Clvdach Vale. The child had said she ate a lozenge she found on the floor.



Postal Address:

C. & D. INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Telegraphic Address: "CHEMICUS CANNON LONDON" (two words).

Telephone Number: BANK 852 (two lines).

INFORMATION WANTED.

Would any reader who knows please inform us by postcard or telephone of the names and addresses of the agents or makers of the articles mentioned in the following inquiries:

- 238/620. Paul's ointment.
- 238/60. "Kleon": supply.
- 242/64. "Vasolax": makers.
- 238/62. "Novopin": suppliers.
- 241/14. "Pop-peim" rouge: supply.
- 239/730. "Pathaleor" cold-cure in tablets.
- 240/50. "Westminster" detergent: makers.
- 241/15. "Poudre Grasse": makers or agents.
- 242/71. Gordon's "Crème Mercure": supply.
- 240/2. Fahrendake electric battery: suppliers.
- 239/71. "Solutio contra dolores" (Weber): supply.
- 234/4. "Medicated Red Cross" toilet rolls: supply.
- 242/63. "Vargloss" (to remove stains from linen): supply.
- 244/43. Edgar Hesse's culture virus for house-flies: who supplies?
- 239/73. "Pudenta" tooth-brush and tooth-powder: suppliers.
- 240/1. Morell Mackenzie's spray for disinfecting (sells at about 40s.).
- 221/49. Louis Leaky Aluminium Co.'s label-damper: British supply.
- 232/62. Wooden small-tooth combs (size 3½ in. by 1½ in.): French makers.
- 237/41. Window brackets marked "Ottons" (or "Cotton's") patent.
- 240/71. "Hide Poison" powder (to make a 1-per-cent. solution for disinfecting skins): makers or suppliers.

INFORMATION SUPPLIED.

During the past week we have answered inquiries as to where the following articles are obtainable wholesale. We shall be glad to repeat the information to others who send to this Department a stamped and addressed envelope for the purpose.

- | | |
|---|--|
| "Acasco" crown perfumer diffusers, 220/57 | Heath's "Beginner's Guide to the Microscope," 240/33 |
| Aethone, 242/66 | Hogyes asbestos - socks, 236/22 |
| Automatic weighing machine 242/52 | Insurance prescriptions (pricing expert), 234/16 |
| Baggalley's damp-proof soles, 242/710 | "Killymuco," 239/73 |
| "Banks of the Wye" perfume, 238/60 | Lactol (for dogs), 239/74 |
| Barbadoes aloes in gourds (Belgian inquiry), 241/64 | Materia-medica cabinets, 239/20 |
| "Beal Tongue Syrup," 237/6 | Mennen's talcum powder, 239/740 |
| Calcium acid phosphate, 241/29 | Menthol, 197/51 |
| Calcium Eosolicum, 237/57 and 239/731 | Mysantol preparations, 240/33 |
| Cascarlax, 242/65 | Onken's "Younits," 237/41 |
| Crème Marquise, 242/711 | Paraformaldehyde, 242/29 |
| Cystopurin, 239/70 | "Petrel" Household ammonia, 239/730 |
| Davis & Draper's glycerin elixir, 238/7 | Rosemary and camphor powders (packed), 239/73 |
| Electrical massage outfits, 239/26 | Soaps, cheap (for Portugal), 206/26 |
| Filicin, 236/71 | Sulphur (roll and flowers), 238/57 |
| Fresh kola nuts (for France), 230/44 | Thymol crystals (ton lots), 238/59 |
| Glacial acetic acid. Continental makers (for Syria), 232/73 | Tucker's asthma-cure (telegraphic inquiry), 242/61 |
| Gummed slips (printers), 242/6 | Whitaker's dry shampoo, 242/71 |
| "Instra" warmers, 239/60 | Wood blocks for dummies, 236/59 |

The up-to-date chemist finds practical methods necessary, but keeps primary the professional aspect of his business.—A. Sercombe Griffin (Weston-super-Mare).

OBSERVATIONS AND REFLECTIONS.

By Xrayser II.

Mr. J. J. Jackson,

has a mind of the true Bourbon order. After the manner of his great exemplar he persists in identifying himself with Hereford, and he neither forgets anything nor learns anything. Far be it from me to suggest that he has even thought of surrender. The armies of the enemy have captured his position, marched over his body, and left him for dead, but he springs again from the dust, waves his stump of a sword, and shouts defiance after them. It is magnificent, but it is not war. I am reminded of poor dear Moore, who with his gigantic colleague Crocker used to supply all the fun to the "Christy Minstrels" of my boyhood's time. One of their "turns" was a boxing-match, in which Crocker would simply wipe the floor with his friend. When it was all over Moore would pick himself up, give himself a shake of satisfaction, thrust out his chest, and say, "Golly! but I shouldn't like to have the licking that fellow got." I hope Mr. Jackson will not suppose that I am posing as Crocker. Not at all: Crocker stands for the facts of the case. He represents about 95 per cent. of the whole body of British pharmacists. Mr. Jackson seems, perhaps not unnaturally, to think him a rather stupid person, one who does not know his own value, who lacks the courage of his opinions, and has but a poor head for business. But he may have misunderstood him. I fancy the present-day pharmacist knows pretty well where his own advantage lies, and my inquiries have led me to a very different conclusion from Mr. Jackson's as to his experience of the Act. Not a single man on the panel to whom I have spoken but is glad of it; "It is," said one, "giving us a bit of our own again," and this, I am persuaded, is the general opinion. Time may, as Mr. Jackson affirms, be on his side, but time, the metaphysicians tell us, is only a mode of thought; we live in the present, and must act in accordance with its conditions if we would survive into any "future" at all.

Your Leaders on the Working of the Act

leave little to be said elsewhere, and few, if any, points have cropped up in the correspondence with which you deal under the head of "Dispensing Arrangements" on which your comments will not be accepted as conclusive by those who are most conversant with the difficulties involved. There is, however, one point on which you have, I believe, said nothing, perhaps because it has nothing to do with the working of the Act and only incidentally arises out of it. I refer to the attempt of pharmacists not on the panel (reported from several places) to discredit insurance dispensing as inferior in skill, care, and the drugs used. This appears to me particularly despicable, and worthy of those ill birds which foul their own nests. It is scarcely conceivable that they who make such charges really mean what they say; if they do, I think very meanly of their intelligence. Some of the doctors who dislike the Act have been taking the same line with regard to the practitioners on the panels, and I commend to the attention of those pharmacists who are following their example what Mr. Glyn-Jones said on the subject in the speech in Parliament reported by you last week. Doctors who act thus have, it is true, the excuse that they are engaged in a campaign against the Act generally; pharmacists who do it merely to get a personal advantage over their neighbours in business touch a lower level.

The Presence in Parliament

of Mr. Glyn-Jones has been a tower of strength to pharmacists in the discussions which have taken place on the various phases of Insurance Medical Benefit. Mr. Glyn-Jones' first-hand knowledge of a very complex situation, his unfailing and persistent care on behalf of the sick poor, and his determination that they should not continue to be the victims of a system which has, I hope, now gone for ever, are deserving of note.

The Pricing of Proprietaries

prescribed on insurance prescriptions is going to be a very serious question. How is it to be solved? Where the preparations are on the P.A.T.A. list there would not seem to be any doubt, since the regular P.A.T.A. margin will allow of at least a living profit. Where original packages are prescribed, can we expect to charge more? and where bulk is broken, how much more can we get? One thing is, I understand, quite settled. No one can charge less than P.A.T.A. prices, even on insurance work, so that we shall always be certain of securing a guaranteed profit without the danger of being undersold, either by brother pharmacists or stores. I agree with you in thinking that the prescriptions of proprietaries so far published do not show either abuse or extravagance, but on the other hand it seems too much to prescribe a long-continued course of somebody's tonic mixture at 4s. 6d. a time.

Consumption in Chickens

appears to be on the increase. It is curious to note that up till quite recently the only diagnostic agent suggested for Johne's disease was a tuberculin obtained from fowls. Avian tuberculin is different from that obtained from bovine or human sources, and in some respects resembles the agent now produced by Twort and Ingram for testing animals suspected of suffering from Johne's disease. This last-named disease is the cause of death of thousands of cattle in the Channel Islands and in Denmark, and there is a future for a diagnostic agent that will effectively spot the trouble and thus enable breeders to get rid of the affected animals before they communicate the infection to others in the herd.

Professor Collie's Researches

and experiments are in themselves sufficient to justify the assertion that chemistry now occupies the foremost place among the sciences. Astronomy, geology, biology, have in turn been, so to speak, the point of the knife with which man has attempted to open his oyster the world, but for the present at any rate chemistry has taken their place, and is carrying our inquisition into the secrets of nature further and deeper than ever before. The very foundations of the earth are being laid bare, and the chemist is with splendid audacity essaying to put his hand on "the primordial atom" from which the whole universe was produced. That he will ever succeed in this endeavour we can hardly suppose; indeed, as the late Samuel Butler said in one of his miscellaneous notes, the only "atom" philosophically conceivable is the universe itself, since that is the only thing we cannot think of as divisible, as something from which it is possible to break off something and lay it apart. There is in fact no conceivable end to the divisibility of particles of matter, and if an end should be reached this would not exhaust the secret of matter itself. Synthesis rather than analysis seems to be the immediate object of the chemist, and the prospect of the lengths to which this may go if Professor Collie's anticipations are realised is simply staggering. It will necessitate a new philosophical synthesis of the mighty atom of which we form a part.



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LIQUORS

Editorial Articles.

A New Epoch in Pharmacy.

VIII. Modification.

IN consequence of a conference between the Insurance Commissioners and representatives of the National Insurance Practitioners' Association, and representatives of local Medical Committees in England, a statement appeared in the Press regarding the clerical work which devolves upon doctors, and several modifications, with a view to diminishing this work, were foreshadowed. Among the modifications was the following respecting prescriptions:

The issue of prescription-forms in triplicate will be discontinued, only one copy will be given to the patient to give to the chemist, and no doctor need retain a duplicate of prescriptions for his own use unless he wishes.

We print elsewhere in this issue a statement which we have received from the Commissioners, and from this it will be seen that, while the triplicate method is condemned, the keeping of a duplicate is left to the discretion of the doctor. We also report a conference between the Scottish Commissioners and medical practitioners and pharmacists in Scotland, at which similar matters were discussed, but in regard to prescriptions a definite conclusion was arrived at—namely, that in view of the labour which the abolition of carbon copies of prescriptions would place upon chemists, the arrangement for providing them with carbon duplicates should still hold. Although we are not enamoured of the triplicate system, because it is unfamiliar to doctors, we are not aware of any grievance in the matter or that it has caused inconvenience. We agree that two sets of books—one for listed articles and the other for non-listed—are not essential. They are a mere convenience to accountancy, and it is only in regard to the use of the two colours of forms that there has been disrespect by the doctors. This duplication can be departed from with advantage and economy. We gather from the Scottish decision that the triplicate forms are to be replaced by duplicates so as to ensure that additional labour will not be imposed upon chemists by transferring to them clerical work for which they are not paid. We see no reason why the Insurance Commissioners in London should not do the same. It is apparent that the inclusion of Scottish pharmacists in the Edinburgh Conference was the means of securing a more equitable adjustment of the proposed modification, and, reading between the lines of the report of the London conferences, it would seem that similar consultation with pharmaceutical

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Finest ARROWROOT	1/ lb.	No. 1 Finest Pure FULLER'S EARTH (Light Colour)	15/ cwt.
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Ditto. Medium Crystals	12/6 ..	Finest Levigated "WHITE EARTH" (Toilet purposes)	18/ cwt.
FLOWERS OF SULPHUR, Finest English	13/6 cwt.		
Ditto. Foreign	9/6 ..		
FULLER'S EARTH (In Dredgers)	11/2 & 6/56 11/22		

Carriage Paid to railway stations within 200 miles of London (or allowance made for distances beyond). Terms less 2½ per cent. Cash or 1 month net.

representatives may be instituted before the new style of prescription-forms is decided upon. All chemists will agree that if they do not receive from doctors a duplicate of the prescription their labour will be much increased, and the labour difficulty in pharmacy is at present so acute that any augmentation of it by official regulation may seriously jeopardise the working of medical benefit.

A company in the East-end of London received from a panel doctor an order to supply an insured person with an indiarubber bandage which differed in size and was dearer than the tarified bandage 5 ft. long and 2½ in. wide (2s. 6d.) The company declined to supply, and the Essex Insurance Committee supported the refusal. Thereupon the insured person wrote to the Insurance Commissioners, and he has received the following reply :

"In reply to your letter of the 3rd inst., I am directed by the National Health Insurance Commissioners (England) to inform you that a chemist or other person who has entered into an agreement with an Insurance Committee under provisions of the National Health Insurance Act (administration of medical benefit) Regulations, 1912, for the supply of an appliance prescribed in the second schedule of the regulations, is required under the terms of his agreement to supply, with reasonable promptness, to any person presenting an order for any of the prescribed appliances in a form provided by the Committee for the purpose, and signed by any practitioner on the panel, or his deputy, such appliances as are so ordered.

"The prescribed appliances include lint and indiarubber bandages, and the latter are not restricted to any particular size or make. The fact that a bandage or other prescribed appliance is not of the particular size specified in the list of prices agreed between the chemist and the Committee does not relieve the former of his obligation under the terms of the agreement to supply it to an insured person when required. The Commissioners are communicating with the Essex Insurance Committee on the matter.

"I am, etc."

This is an important ruling. We said on January 25, p. 114, in reference to a case of this kind, that "chemists should be careful to recognise the difference between unlisted appliances and drugs which are not on the tariff. In the former case there is no provision made for the payment by Insurance Committees." The Commissioners now find that the agreement that they came to with the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee in regard to appliances, so far as it is embodied in the printed tariff, restricts the schedule appended to the regulations, which is as follows :

List of Appliances.

Bandages: Calico (bleached), calico (unbleached), crepe, domette, flannel, indiarubber, muslin, plaster of Paris, open-wove.	Lints: Unmedicated, boric, sal-alembroth.
Gauzes: Unmedicated, boric, carbolic, cyanide, sal-alembroth, sublimate.	Wools: Cotton, wood.
	Oiled silk, oiled paper, gutta-percha tissue, adhesive plaster, ice-bags, splints.
	Catheters: Gum-elastic, soft rubber.

The effect of the Commissioners' ruling is not to restrict these articles to the sizes or prices of the tariff, and it introduces a modification of the interpretation which has hitherto been given by authorities.

Mr. O'Grady's Inaccuracies.

The title is used on the assumption that Mr. James O'Grady, M.P. for East Leeds, is responsible for the questions he put in the House of Commons before the adjournment; but it is possible that they were formulated for him. Leeds papers have already exposed "the mare's nest" which the question regarding Holbeck sheltered. We now deal with Oldham, where, according to Mr. O'Grady, eight resident and twenty-eight non-resident chemists are on the dispensing panel, and thirty-one resident and eleven non-resident drug-store pro-

prietors are debarred from being on it. We have before us the printed list issued by the Insurance Committee of the County Borough of Oldham. It gives the names of all who are on the panels. Part I. is of chemists and companies who supply drugs, appliances, and dispense medicines. On this are the names of twenty-five chemists and companies who trade in thirty-four places of business; Oldham occurs twenty-eight times, Shaw twice, and Chadderton, Failsworth, Lees, and Manchester each once. These figures not only disprove Mr. O'Grady's, but show that his statement as to resident and non-resident is incorrect. Part II. of the official list consists of those who are authorised to supply drugs and appliances, but not poisons; on this there are the names of fourteen persons, each carrying on business at one address. Part III. consists of two persons who are authorised to supply appliances only. As to Mr. O'Grady's inference that forty-two drug-store proprietors have been debarred from going on the panel, we would point out that Part II. was open to them, but only fourteen have availed themselves of the privilege, and if Mr. O'Grady cares to make personal inquiry we think he will find that these include the names of drug-store keepers and herbalists who are in a position to supply drugs and appliances. Perhaps Mr. O'Grady has not been informed that one condition of entry on even Part II. of the list is that the contractor shall as far as practicable keep in stock the scheduled drugs and appliances. Many herbalists in a small way of business cannot be expected to keep such stock; it is not in their line; packed herbs and carded goods (which doctors never order) being their chief stock-in-trade, and a five-pound-note would cover the value in some instances. But the point is that they have no grievance; Part II. of the panel is open to them, and they have not gone upon it. Mr. O'Grady has done Parliament an injustice by putting before it statements which are inaccurate, and claiming the right to dispense medical prescriptions for some people who are unaccustomed to do anything of the kind.

A Bold Circular.

Boots, Ltd., have issued in the South of England, and probably elsewhere, a quarto circular about the National Insurance Act and free medicines and surgical appliances for insured persons. The following are two paragraphs in it :

"If you are a contributor under the National Insurance Act, you are entitled—among other benefits—to free medicine and surgical appliances. When you are ill your doctor will give you a prescription, which you are at liberty to have made up at any of the branches of Boots Cash Chemists Free of Charge.

"Fully understand—you can take your prescription to any branch of Boots Cash Chemists, who will prepare it Free of Charge."

We may point out that the "liberty" which insured persons enjoy is to take their prescriptions to the shop of any chemist or company on the panel, and not merely to a Boots' shop.

Sale of Quinine Wine.

We called attention in our issue of December 21, 1912, to the Excise ruling regarding the labelling of quinine wine. Simultaneously we addressed the Commissioners of Customs and Excise upon the matter, and we have now received the following reply :

Custom House, London,
February 18, 1913.

No. 4051/1912.

SIR—With reference to your letter of the 19th December last, I am directed by the Board of Customs and Excise to

state that the conditions under which they allow the sale of quinine wine without Excise licence are:

(a) That the wine is prepared in accordance with the directions given in the British Pharmacopœia:

(b) That sales are made only by duly qualified chemists and druggists; and

(c) That the wine is labelled to show that it is intended to be used as a medicine and not as a beverage.

It has been the practice of the Board to regard the observance of condition (c) as involving—

(1) That the word "Dose" should appear on the label in bold type; and

(2) That the dose recommended on the label should not exceed in quantity that prescribed for such wine in the British Pharmacopœia—viz., $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 fl. oz.—but the Board do not object to the substitution for such measure of the words, "one or two tablespoonfuls," or "half a wineglassful."

I am to add that the Board have no reason to believe that chemists and druggists concerned are not fully cognisant of condition (c) as explained above.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

A. J. DYKE, Assistant Secretary.

The Editor "The Chemist and Druggist,"
42 Cannon Street, E.C.

The point left in doubt and now cleared up by this letter is the statement of the dose, as set forth in paragraph (2).

Scheduling Veronal.

The renewed inquiry in regard to the death of Mr. H. E. Trevanion at Hove has confirmed the result of the first inquest, and has brought a strong recommendation from the coroner's jury to the effect that veronal and drugs of a like character should be placed upon the poisons schedule. Our readers are aware that a recommendation to this effect has been before the Privy Council for nearly a year. We subjoin in the first column a resolution passed by the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain on March 6, 1912, and another resolution passed by the Council on February 5, 1913:

March 1912.

(a) That "sulphonal" be removed from Part 2 of the schedule to the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908, and that "sulphonal, its derivatives, and the poisonous derivatives of mercaptol," be substituted therefor.

(b) That "diethyl-barbituric acid and other derivatives of barbituric acid and all poisonous ureides and their derivatives" ought to be deemed poisons within the meaning of the Pharmacy Acts, and ought to be added to Part 2 of the schedule to the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908.

February 1913.

That "diethyl-barbituric acid" ought to be deemed a poison within the meaning of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, as amended by the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908, and ought to be deemed a poison in the second part of the "Schedule of Poisons" to that Act.

We went fully into the chemistry of the "omnibus" resolutions of 1912 in our issue of March 16, 1912. It is understood that the difficulty of defining the limitations of the terms of the resolution made the Privy Council hesitate. The precise and definite terms of the Pharmaceutical Council's new resolution meet the demands of the Hove jury, and will be more satisfactory to chemists. It is interesting to note in this connection that a medical correspondent of the "Times" protests against the hypnotic being made in 5-gr. tablets. He has found 1 and 2 gr. doses produce sound sleep in many cases.

Patent-medicine Inquiry.

As indicated at the last sitting of the Select Committee on Patent Medicines, Sir Henry Norman, M.P., the Chairman, has made a formal report to the House of Commons, intimating that the inquiry is not concluded, and asking to be reappointed next session. The official record in the "Votes and Proceedings" is as follows:

PATENT MEDICINES.—Report from Select Committee. Brought up and read. Inquiry not concluded. Report to lie upon the table and to be printed. Minutes of proceedings to be printed.

There is, it is stated, a good deal of evidence yet to be taken, and some months, therefore, must elapse before the report of the Committee can be presented to Parliament. Legislation, or administrative action as the case may be, is not expected, therefore, before the session of 1914. It is unlikely that the interim report of the Committee, which will, as already stated, merely indicate that the Committee has not completed its inquiry, and asking for reappointment in the new Session, will be issued until next month. It is understood that it is not intended to publish the evidence which has been taken so far, and that the testimony of the various witnesses will not be issued until the inquiry as a whole is completed.

Advertisements of "Patents."

It will be remembered that last year, during the examination of Dr. Alfred Cox by the Select Committee on Patent Medicines, the witness promised to place before the conductors of the "British Medical Journal" the question of the advertisements of proprietary medicines in that journal. It will also be within the recollection of our readers that the "Journal of the American Medical Association" made some scathing remarks regarding the advertisements in the "British Medical Journal," and that when these remarks were read to Dr. Cox at a meeting of the Select Committee the impression was created that the British Medical Association did not approach with clean hands the subject of the abuse of proprietary medicines. According to a report in the "British Medical Journal," the matter was dealt with at the quarterly meeting of the Journal Committee, and the following recommendations were approved:

1. That the general principles already in force regarding the control of advertisements be not modified at present.
2. That when any new advertisement is tendered the advertiser be asked to supply a sample of the preparation as supplied to the public.
3. That the acceptance of the renewal of the advertisement of certain preparations specified should in future be conditional upon the advertisement being withdrawn from the lay Press.

In the meantime there seems to be a boom in the advertisements of proprietary medicines in the lay Press.

"The Optimists."

We have received the names of sixteen of them—"a group of men who realise that the dining clubs in the business world do not carry any of their discussions into action. The optimists are going to do this very thing." The first thing that they promise to do is to inaugurate a national movement for the saving of time in business. The following are illustrations of the directions of attack:

1. Time wasted by irrelevance at public meetings.
2. Time wasted by unpunctuality at appointments.
3. Time wasted by keeping expensive travellers waiting.
4. Buyers' time wasted by travellers who refuse to put their story concisely.
5. Time wasted by inefficient railway service.
6. Time wasted by the failure to grapple with the traffic problems of the streets.
7. Time wasted in Parliament by obsolete and childish rules.
8. Time wasted in the Courts for want of more judges.
9. Time wasted by shopmen in showing articles that people do not want to buy.
10. Time wasted in shops because customers do not state the price they mean to pay when they come in.
11. Time wasted in booking-offices because the railway companies do not open inquiry bureaux and encourage interminable conversations between the public and the booking-office clerks.
12. Time wasted in most business houses by hide-bound insistence on red-tape methods.

13. Time wasted by the inefficiency of the telephone service.
 14. Time wasted by the lengthy delays in Government Departments.

The scheme may have a look about it like a new organisation to give special publicity to the organisers, but "The Optimists" do not desire personal publicity. We are surprised that the first item on the list was not "Time wasted at dining clubs of publicity specialists and hangers-on."

Java Cinchona.

The note published in another column describing the hearty acceptance by the Java planters of the proposed contract between them and the Quinine Syndicate is apparently premature, since at least one well-known planter, Heer von Winning, of Bandoeng, has offered strong criticism of the terms offered. He points out that the price of quinine sulphate, on which the price to be paid for bark depends, is to be fixed by the quinine-makers twenty-four hours before each sale, so that in this matter planters are entirely in the hands of the manufacturers, who may for their own purposes fix a low price for the alkaloid. He contends that the syndicate of makers completely controls the quinine markets, and that the idea that London is a free market for quinine is erroneous, since it is used by the Syndicate merely as a depot for quinine not delivered direct to consumers. London quinine prices are, he asserts, just as effectively controlled by the Syndicate as they are elsewhere. He suggests therefore that the fixing of the price at which bark is to be bought should be done by the President of the Bureau, which will be organised to manage the sales, and that not only the published London price for quinine must be taken into account, but also the price actually paid by consumers. Heer von Winning also complains of the provision for pooling any increase in the price of bark beyond 5 cents per unit, and dividing the pool at the end of the year. He urges that this introduces unnecessary complications, and that planters ought to receive the proceeds of the sales as soon as they are available. Another difficulty is the obligation on planters to ship all the bark they harvest immediately to Amsterdam, and the critic suggests that this should only apply to the bark contracted for by the Syndicate—viz., the equivalent of 500,000 kilos of sulphate per annum. Further, although the contract mentions the quantity of Java cinchona bark the makers will buy at a minimum price, nothing is said about bark purchased by the makers elsewhere, and to obviate cutting in London Heer von Winning proposes the following addition to the contract:

"Bark sold by auction in London or elsewhere and not produced in the Dutch East Indies, including all second-hand bark, may be bought by the makers, but only under the conditions which obtain in the Amsterdam market."

Heer von Winning also argues that at present conditions are so good that quinine-makers are probably more anxious than planters for the completion of the contract, and he urges his fellows to consider the matter very carefully before deciding on acceptance, and in selecting a representative to conduct the final negotiations to choose someone who can be depended on not to give way on the cardinal points to which he has drawn attention.

Mr. P. BARSSE, of Amsterdam, has issued his annual report on cinchona, quinine, and coca-leaves for the year 1912, these for the most part dealing with figures already published in the *C. & D.*

FORMULAS for B.P.C. preparations on the Insurance drug tariff are printed in an eight-page leaflet, which is supplied at 6d. per doz. (7d. by post) by the *C. & D. Book Department*, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Soil Analysis.

By W. Harrison Martindale, Ph.D.

IN these days when many people are more or less interested in the cultivation of flowers and plants, soil analysis appears to be a subject which could be profitably conducted by the pharmacist. The object of this communication is to endeavour to simplify the modes of procedure in an examination of soil and to give the results of some examinations of samples of garden and other soils from various parts of the country, in the hope that they may prove of assistance to others who have not had occasion to go through the drudgery and initial difficulties in starting work of this description. Numerous "conventions" have to be adopted in soil analysis, and are described.

COLLECTION OF THE SAMPLE.

The sample of the earth must be taken under prescribed conditions. Directions issued by the California Experiment Station, mentioned in "Hilgard on Soils," deal with the collection of the sample at very considerable length. It is important, for example, to avoid ground that has frequently been trodden upon, edges of paths, and the like. In taking the sample a vertical hole should be made. Various augers and such like tools have been advised for the purpose, but probably the conventional spade will do equally well, if not better. It is desirable to note at what depth a change of tint in the earth occurs in making the hole. In ordinary humid regions as distinct from arid places (the directions doubtless referring to more or less virgin soil) this usually happens at a depth of from 6 to 9 in. from the surface. The sample is taken to that depth and should be about a quart in contents.

Obviously earth removed at the surface would have a different composition than an average of this kind. Obviously, again, it would be well to mix sample quarts from different parts, or, again, series of sample quarts might be submitted for examination where considerable interests are involved. The pharmacist, however, will, if my suggestion is of any value, be concerned with catering for the requirements of his client on a more limited scope of action. It will be equally important that the client should state whether manuring has recently been carried out, and, if so, to what extent and when; further, the nature of the manuring should be indicated so as to assist the analyst rather than possibly vitiate his results. I may say here in passing that from time immemorial much of the manuring of the land has been carried out in a most rule of thumb manner without the slightest regard for the actual requirements of the earth under cultivation, and it is here, I think, that the pharmacist could probably render considerable service.

Before dealing with the chemical examination of the earth it ought to be stated that there are various data in the mechanical examination of the soil for which reference must be made to the standard text-books. The client himself will be probably too fully aware of a preponderance of clay or, on the other hand, an excess of sandy matter with its concomitant absence of humus and general poverty.

According to a recent paper by E. J. Russell (Goldsmiths' Company's soil chemist, Rothamsted) in "The Chemical World," the data of a soil analysis are affected by the position, the subsoil, climate, and other circumstances, hence the matter is distinctly complex, as the analyst (when reporting—e.g., to a farmer) is expected to give information as to the crops best suited to the land in question. The rate at which potential food can be converted into actual food is of importance. I shall refer several times to this paper.

The chemical examination resolves itself into several headings—to wit, nitrogen, organic matter, lime, and phosphoric acid.

NITROGEN.

It need hardly be said that an adequate proportion of nitrogen as plant food is of the utmost importance—indeed, this and lime dispute the premier position in importance. The estimation of the nitrogen is commonly conducted by

carrying out a Kjeldahl estimation of the ammonia obtained from the sample of the air-dried soil in the customary manner. As an alternative to this tedious and annoying process, I am inclined to think that a simple determination of the loss on heating of the air-dried soil in a small platinum crucible, combined with an estimation of the content of nitrate by the brucine coloration test, may possibly be representative of the condition of the soil in lieu of the Kjeldahl estimation.

It is well known that nitrogen available to the plant exists in the form of nitrates, nitrites, and ammonia, particularly the first, as by aid of the nitrifying bacteria oxidation under normal conditions proceeds rapidly, but the Kjeldahl test simply indicates the total nitrogen. At the same time one must not forget that the proportion of nitrate in the soil is exceedingly small. A. D. Hall says, for example :

"Of the immediately soluble nitrogen compounds—nitrates, nitrites, and ammonia—only a very small amount, varying from 5 to 200 lb. per acre, is ever present in the soil at any given time."

The following is from Russell's paper :

Nitrates are not precipitated or absorbed by the colloids (compare under Phosphorus) of the soil, but are readily washed out by rain-water. Their amount in the soil, therefore, entirely depends on the previous fortnight's rainfall. High total nitrogen-content does not discriminate between that which will decompose in the soil and that which will not. Thus fertile arable land may show only 0.15 per cent. of total nitrogen, whilst barren heaths may show 0.4 to 0.5 per cent.

He suggests, as a mode of determining nitrate, keeping the soil for five or six weeks in a moist condition at 15° C. and estimating the amount of nitrate produced in this time—e.g., with an addition of a little calcium carbonate—this notably increases nitrification. In conducting the brucine test I find it is desirable to mix 5 grammes of dried earth with 10 c.c. of citric-acid solution 1 per cent., or to use a sufficiency of sulphuric acid if necessary—the final solution must be acid—heat on a water-bath for five minutes, filter, and gradually mix 0.5 c.c. of the extractive, with the same amount of brucine reagent in sulphuric acid. This I Nesslerise against a corresponding amount of 0.05 per cent. potassium-nitrate solution.

ORGANIC MATTER.

This estimation, as I have already stated, is a simple matter, but here convention comes in. It is desirable to heat the sample for a specified time—namely, for a few hours—at a barely visible redness; to ascertain the loss on ignition. Experiment shows that as a general rule much less time produces closely approximating figures. This loss, so far as my experience goes, may vary between 5 and 10 per cent. Peaty soils lose, of course, considerably more.

LIME.

The determination of the lime is, so far as the work of authorities helps us, the veritable crux of the matter—the Rothamsted authorities lay particular stress on this constituent. It is, however, not so much a determination of the total calcium as to ascertain the amount present as calcium carbonate, which will serve as a base and neutralise acids liberated by the decay of vegetable and other matter. It need hardly be pointed out that the content of lime varies tremendously in different districts. Contrast, for example, the soil on the chalk cliffs, where the content may be anything from 50 to even 90 per cent., with the peat and bog soils on the moors in various counties, where the lime-content is almost nil. The estimation of calcium carbonate in the soil gives a little trouble. I have made a number of determinations, precipitating it as oxalate—working, that is, on a quantity of 20 grams, dissolving in 100 c.c. of acid, hydrochloric, dil., taking an aliquot part, almost neutralising with ammonia, precipitating with ammonium oxalate, washing and weighing the residue, and reporting in terms of calcium carbonate. I have also estimated the lime by the sulphuric-acid method, to which I am rather partial.

These methods may not be quite accurate in that they may indicate a proportion of lime salts other than the available calcium carbonate. The Scheibler apparatus—

i.e., the conventional little flask for CO₂ determination—comes in handy. The loss in CO₂ gives one in a few minutes the equivalent in calcium carbonate. If there is some admixture of another carbonate it does not matter; the convention is to report such in the form of calcium carbonate. I notice that Hall advises as the best average minimum for a soil 0.5 to 1 per cent. of calcium carbonate. Probably a great deal more would be by no means detrimental. Good strong crops can be grown on calcareous soils.

PHOSPHORUS.

This exists in the soil in various forms, for example, "with carbon as nuclein and lecithin, also as phosphate of the sesquioxides of iron and aluminium, and in the main as tribasic and probably also dibasic calcium phosphate. Of these the latter are probably the most soluble in either pure water or water of the soil charged with carbon dioxide."

The quotation above is from the Rothamsted authority, and is doubtless as up to date as knowledge on the subject can be. The amount of phosphorus, always reported in terms of P₂O₅, varies considerably. In gardens that have been adequately manured with a phosphate or bone manure the amount may be even as much as 0.4 per cent. P₂O₅, but as an average I would consider 0.2 per cent. (total P₂O₅) as satisfactory.

The estimation of phosphate leads us to consider the total phosphoric acid and the citric-acid-soluble phosphate—that is to say, the phosphoric acid is present in a form that is (1) unavailable to the plant, and (2) readily soluble and hence available. To determine the unavailable form, one employs to the best advantage simply the method of precipitating with ammonium molybdate from a strongly acid extractive, using a convenient quantity of the air-dried soil. It would apparently seem of relatively little use to estimate this unavailable phosphate.

Coming now to the estimation of the citric-acid-soluble phosphate, we have the convention of Bernard Dyer (1894) to guide us. Dyer suggested that a 1-per-cent. citric-acid solution should be utilised for washing out the soil. It is customary to shake a convenient quantity—for example, 100 grams of the dried earth—for some hours in a mechanical shaker and to take an aliquot part of the solution. Evaporate this to dryness, ignite, dissolve the residue in hydrochloric acid, and estimate with ammonium molybdate as usual. It cannot, of course, be claimed that such a solution represents what actually occurs *in vivo* by the activity of the plant, nor can it be claimed that the citric acid removes the entire soluble phosphate present. In the case of a calcareous soil, one probably neutralises the citric acid straight away, with the result that the ultimate "solution" would not be comparable with one made under conditions having citric acid in excess. The convention is that the solvent action of dilute acids—e.g., citric acid—is comparable with that of the soil water—which, in the neighbourhood of the plant, is a solution of carbon dioxide. The citric-acid method is criticised by Russell on the basis of work of Van Bemmeln, Ramann, and others, as follows :

The rock particles in the earth are coated with a colloidal complex of organic matter, silica, aluminium and iron oxides, phosphoric acid, potassium compounds, etc., which have the power of interacting and precipitating dissolved substances. When soil is shaken up, therefore, with a very dilute acid, its soluble constituents distribute themselves between the two solvents—the acid and the colloidal complex—so that several extractions are necessary before all the soluble constituents are dissolved out, and no sharp end point is ever reached.

The data obtained by the examination of various soils, which I have recently conducted are given in the table on the next page.

The table refers to garden soils with the following additional particulars : Columns 1 and 2 relate to London suburban gardens, while all the Surrey soils were derived from market gardens. Surrey (2) had been uncultivated for ten years, and had chalk seven or eight feet down. Surrey (3) had been unmanured for two years, and had chalk a foot below the surface. Surrey (4) consisted of black, sandy soil, and was the best of the four for market-garden work. The normal reaction of the soil to litmus is alkaline, and nitrates are normally about 0.1 per cent.

nic matter is determined by Losson's method of heat-as described above. The loss is normally 5 to 10 per cent. The minimum for calcium carbonate is 0.5 to 1 per cent. The phosphoric acid is expressed as citric-acid-equivalent P_2O_5 . All the figures relate to percentage amounts of soils dried at water-bath temperature and suitably

	London	London	Sussex	Sussex	Surrey (1)	Surrey (2)	Surrey (3)	Surrey (4)	Cumberland	Kent
on o litmus s ...	N.A.	A.	A.	A.	D.A.	A.	D.A.	A.	A.	D.A.
	0.25*	0.13*	0.4	0.17	0.025	0.125	0.025	0.075	0.1	0.08
ic matter n carbonat oric	8.2	9.0	6.6	8.2	6.0	6.3	10.68	7.0	9.0	8.44
	1.02	0.77	0.35	0.65	56.2	2.17	51.7	1.57	0.71	47.08
acio	1.224*	1.114*	0.01	0.0756	0.037	—	0.0063	0.1134	0.158	0.0434

Not alkaline. A. = Alkaline. D.A. = Decidedly alkaline.
ively high, probably owing to retentive power of London clay.

interpreting reports the pharmacist can direct a decay of nitrogen, for example, to be overcome by working a soluble nitrate at a suitable season of the year. Efficiency in phosphate can be overcome by suitable mixtures of either basic slag or superphosphate, always bearing in mind that where there is plenty of lime already superphosphate is the better, as it is an acid manure. Basic slag, on the other hand, is better for soils showing an acid reaction. Basic slag is best in wet places and superphosphate in dry ones. From Russell's "Summary of Recommendations" I may quote the following:

It is safe to advise chalk or lime or basic slag to be added to clay in loam or clay soils where mechanical analysis shows more than 15 per cent. of clay, even if 10 per cent. or more of calcium carbonate is present. In very soil very small quantities, even 0.05 per cent. calcium carbonate, sometimes suffice, especially where the soil shows an underground drift of calcareous water. In advising chalk to be added to a sandy soil the pharmacist should satisfy himself that finger-and-toe disease (turnips) is present, or some other indicator of sourness."

POTASH.

manuring with potash, the estimation of which I have dealt with above (it is conducted by the usual platinitic chloride precipitation), is advised in chalky soils, sandy soils and soils rich in organic matter, while clay soils, as a rule, do not require it. "Sugar-making crops, starch crops, and leguminous crops almost invariably require more potash than they find. 0.015 per cent. available potash (obtained in the B. Dyer extraction) will commonly be found where the rainfall is 30 in. or more, but not where it is 25 in. or less." The reason for this, one would think, is the curious state of things is that potash manures tend to shorten the life of the plant, and they therefore promote the growing period and increase the yield in dry districts where the conditions tend to early stoppage of the plant.

The pharmacist will also be able to advise his customers as to the incompatibilities where manures are applied together in the land—e.g., to intimately mix lime and sulphate of ammonia or lime with ordinary farmyard manure would be distinctly wasteful. He will briefly be of great assistance to the amateur at this season of the year, but where large interests are involved the pharmacist, unless specially qualified for the work, would perhaps do better to refer the soil examination alone by referring it to an agricultural college, as a knowledge of geology of the district, and the experimental work that has been done on similar soils, etc., are requisite.

Obviously the possible commerce in chemical manures of various kinds—nitrates, ammonium sulphate, basic slag, superphosphate, guano, kainit, etc.—will be a matter well worth the pharmacist's careful consideration.

Australian Pharmaceutical Conference.

IN addition to the paper printed in the *C. & D.*, February 8, index folio 212, Mr. R. C. Cowley, Ph.C., Brisbane, made two other communications to the Melbourne Conference. The first dealt with the question of

THE STABILITY OF HYDROCYANIC ACID.

Some hydrocyanic acid was prepared in the Brisbane College of Pharmacy in April 1912 which assayed 4.537 per cent. of real hydrocyanic acid. This was stored in a pint bottle, partially filled, on a shelf in the laboratory, and was assayed about once a month. It gradually lost hydrocyanic acid until in December it assayed 4.2916 per cent. Various other experiments were made of the effect of storing in small phials, and the rate of loss noted after exposure in open vessels. The conclusion arrived at was that the time-honoured custom of preserving hydrocyanic acid in small phials is wrong; in fact, it favours loss of hydrocyanic acid. The loss when stored in bulk is not so rapid as it is usually thought to be. Attention was drawn to the temperature at which the acid was stored, the maximum reached in Southern Queensland being higher than is generally reached in Great Britain.

SOLUTIONS OF ETHYL NITRITE.

Mr. Cowley has also studied the question of deterioration of solutions of ethyl nitrite. These lose strength (1) by evaporation, (2) by spontaneous decomposition, and (3) by hydrolysis and subsequent oxidation. The rapidity of hydrolysis of ethyl nitrite is such that it is practically useless to prescribe it in an aqueous mixture; it should be diluted immediately before administering it. Gasometric analysis showed that the "liquor" keeps better than the "spirit."

Both samples were stored in accurately fitting glass-stoppered bottles in a cupboard, and were only opened for the purpose of withdrawing the necessary amount of solution for analysis. The author thought that both samples kept very well considering their constitution, but these were hardly fair tests, and by no means typical of conditions obtaining under actual working in a pharmacy. The effect of the frequent removal of the stopper has to be taken into consideration. He found during these experiments that the sample must be pipetted directly from the bottle, otherwise the results were very discordant. Mr. T. McCall, Assistant Government Analyst, Queensland, concurred with his observation. Then followed a series of experiments undertaken with a view to gauge the effect of exposure. These showed that stronger solutions of ethyl nitrite deteriorate proportionately more rapidly.

Taking all these observations into consideration, it appears clear that the deterioration of solutions of ethyl nitrite is chiefly due to evaporation, and lead to the belief that the smaller loss of ethyl nitrite observed in the case of liquor ethyl nitritis is due to the greater viscosity of the solvent. Further experiments proved this to be the case, and although increased viscosity might be regarded as objectionable, especially in the climate of the British Isles, he strongly recommended the compilers of the forthcoming edition of the British Pharmacopoeia to adopt a mixture of 90-per-cent. alcohol and glycerin in equal volumes as a solvent for all preparations of ethyl nitrite.

A Soap Patent.

In the Chancery Division of the High Court, London, on Thursday, February 20, Mr. Justice Neville had before him an action brought by Joseph Crosfield & Sons, Ltd., Warrington, against the Techno-Chemical Laboratories, Ltd., and Nils Testrup, of London. The plaintiffs sought to restrain an alleged infringement of their Letters Patent 1515 of January 21, 1903, granted to Dr. Wilhelm Normann, of Herford, Westphalia, for a process for converting unsaturated fatty acids or their glycerides into saturated compounds. The defendants denied the alleged infringement. Sir A. Cripps, K.C., addressed the Court for the plaintiffs, and the hearing was adjourned.

WINTER SESSION.

Reporters, and Secretaries of Associations whose meetings are not open to reporters, are requested to send their reports to the Editor not later than the Wednesday following the meeting.

Birmingham.—At a meeting of members of the Midland Pharmaceutical Association at Birmingham University on February 19, the President (Mr. J. A. Radford) in the chair, Mr. Fredk. Smith lectured in an interesting way on *The Stars*, about which, he said, the average inhabitant of the British Isles is more ignorant than a savage. It was only, he said, towards the middle of last century that the refinements of instruments and methods enabled astronomers, after prolonged efforts, to obtain the first certain results. The same principle was adopted as in geometry, constructing a base line and taking the bearings of an object some distance away. But a difficulty was found in getting a base line. The total diameter of the earth was quite insufficient, and the base line that was used was the diameter of the earth's orbit round the sun, the two observations being of necessity made with an interval of six months between them. Although this base line was 180,000,000 miles in length, there are only a few stars sufficiently near to allow of anything approaching exact measurement. The number of stars visible to the naked eye is something about 2,500. The paper was illustrated with a beautiful set of slides. The lecturer was heartily thanked for his paper.

Blackpool.—The annual meeting of the Blackpool and Fylde Pharmacists' Association was held on February 14 at the Palatine Hotel, Blackpool. The President (Mr. D. J. Bailey) was in the chair, and there were fourteen members present. The Secretary and Treasurer submitted their reports, which were approved. Mr. D. J. Bailey was unanimously re-elected *President*. Other officers elected were: *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. J. W. Huddart; *Assistant Hon. Secretary*, Mr. G. A. Clarke; *Vice-Presidents*, Messrs. Johnson and Laurie; *Committee*, Messrs. Boothroyd, Greenwood, Lowe, Sankey, and Turder; *Hon. Auditors*, Messrs. Blackhurst and Speight. A sub-committee was appointed to interview the Chief Constable in regard to the working of the Shops Act, and the same sub-committee was also empowered to enter into negotiations with the local Medical Committee when occasion arose. New members elected were Messrs. Chew, Coombe, Platt, and Roberts.

Bradford.—A meeting of the Chemists' Section of the Bradford Chamber of Trade was held at the rooms of the Chamber on February 18. The President (Mr. M. Firth) was in the chair, and there was a large attendance of members. Mr. Granville Shaw gave a lecture on *The Humorous Aspect of Pharmacy*, which proved to be a large and varied collection of travellers' tales, poking fun at chemists' customers, doctors, quacks, dentists, and even chemists and travellers themselves. Mr. Shaw was cordially thanked for his lecture. Four new members were nominated for election. (See also index folio 296.)

Carlisle.—The annual meeting of the Carlisle Chemists' Association was held on February 5 at the Viaduct Hotel. The business before the meeting consisted of the election of officers for the ensuing year. Mr. T. Ridley was re-elected *President*, and Mr. C. M. Dalziel *Vice-President*. Mr. Robinson, who has held the office of Secretary since the formation of the Society ten years ago, tendered his resignation. Mr. Robinson was thanked for the services he had rendered, and many regrets were expressed at his resignation. The duties of secretary were entrusted jointly to Messrs. T. M. Ridley and J. W. B. Errington.

Chemist-Opticians.—A meeting of the General Purposes Committee of the Society of Chemist-Opticians was held at St. Bride Institute, Ludgate Circus, London, E.C., on February 14. Mr. S. W. Woolley was appointed Chairman of the committee. The following members of the Society were elected: Mr. Roderick Ross, Utrecht, Natal; Mr. C. P. Cluett, Highfield Road, Dartford; Mr. Hugh Whittle, Latimer Road, Oldham; Mr. Edw. Miller, 273 Victoria Dock Road, London, E.; and Mr. John Dent, 79 New Square, Chesterfield. Mr. J. E. Carpenter, 37 King Street, Sandwich, was elected an associate-member.

Eastbourne.—A meeting of the Eastbourne Pharmacists' Association was held at the Queen's Hotel on February 11. Mr. Arthur Mills was in the chair, and there were also present eleven members and Mr. D. Marchant (*Hon. Secretary*). Insurance matters occupied a good deal of time, and it was resolved that members should place the date on all labels, and in the case of repeats the original date. The *Hon. Secretary* was instructed to write to the Pharmaceutical Society, to inquire if it is not possible to take steps to procure a reduction in chemists' wine-licences, it

being considered that chemists lose money by confining themselves to the sale of medicinal wines for fear of jeopardising their licences.

Edinburgh Assistants.—A meeting of the Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association was held at 36 York Place on February 12, Mr. Henry Stout, Ph.C. (President), in the chair. Mr. B. M. Brander, Ph.C., read a communication on *Bacteria in Relation to Plant-life*, dealing chiefly with the function of bacteria in agriculture and the fertility of the soil. Nitrifying bacteria are assisted in their work by up-to-date agriculturists. The next paper was a *Note on Two Samples of Olive Oil*, by Mr. W. B. Cowie, F.C.S. An examination of the samples made it obvious that the oils have been mixed with some unsaponifiable oil, and the specific gravities carefully adjusted to correspond with those of olive oil. The seller admitted that the oils were adulterated, and stated that they were to be used for technical purposes. Mr. Cowie also gave an interesting demonstration of the use of the oleo-refractometer in the classification of oils. Votes of thanks were given to the authors of the papers.

Liverpool.—A meeting of the Liverpool Chemists' Association was held on February 12 at the Royal Institution, Colquitt Street. Mr. H. Humphreys Jones, F.C.S. (President), occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance. Messrs. Kennedy, Pickering Jones, Culshaw, and T. G. Foster were elected members. An interesting lecture was delivered by Mr. Gwilym Owen, D.Sc., on *Radium*. At the outset the lecturer gave a brief outline of the theories held up to recent years with regard to the constitution of matter. Then he proceeded to explain that the atom is made up of electrons, and that these electrons are inconceivably small even when compared with the atom. The atom is as much larger than an electron as a cathedral is larger compared with a fly that moves about in it. Dr. Owen then proceeded to give a history of the discovery of radium, mentioning the pioneers in that great discovery, among whom are Becquerel, M. Curie and his wife, Sir W. Crookes, Sir William Ramsay, and Sir J. J. Thomson. A vote of thanks to the lecturer was moved by Dr. C. Symes, seconded by Mr. P. H. Marsden, and carried unanimously.

London (N.).—At the meeting of the North London Association of Pharmacists on February 13 a discussion on *Pharmacy and Co-operation* was opened by Mr. E. F. Harrison, B.Sc., F.I.C. In pointing out the difference between such a movement and the great co-operative bodies of the north, he asserted the one would retain personality as its most valuable asset, while the other, being a combination of consumers, made the distributing agencies simply a phase of multiple shops. The growth of branded goods indicated the direction which might be taken with advantage, as the pharmacist is the natural manufacturer as well as the distributor. In dealing with the difficulties of pooling receipts, he showed that another trouble would be the opposition of the wholesaler, and it could not be anything but a very severe struggle unless at least one was included. The Chairman (Mr. Noble) followed, pinning his faith to advertising. Mr. Skinner said that co-operative buying of drugs and chemicals is ineffectual, as people do not take more physic now than formerly. The growth of branded-goods firms seems to show that money has been diverted from the pharmacist, as the consumer receives these goods through other channels. Mr. Hampton (of Ucal, Ltd.) gave details of the Ucal scheme which is already in existence, and this was emphasised by Mr. Evans (Hammersmith) and Mr. Hearle (Finsbury). Mr. Wolff (Tottenham) believed that proprietary lines provide the best means of co-operating. Mr. Harrison replied that one must have something to advertise before one starts doing so; mere buying is the least part of co-operation. He thought that Ucal might easily form the nucleus of true co-operation. A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Harrison, and a small committee was appointed to further co-operative methods.

London Assistants.—A combined meeting of the Chemists' Assistants' Association and the Association of Women Pharmacists was held at 73 Newman Street, London, W., on February 13, Mr. P. B. Phillips (President C.A.A.) occupying the chair. There was a good audience. Two papers were read, one by Mrs. Stephenson, Ph.C., on *The Application of Chemistry to Horticulture*, and the other by Mrs. Freke, pharmacist, on *Some Difficulties of the Retail Chemist*. The former dealt with various researches on the origin and nature of plant-foods, and the uses and action of the various chemicals to improve crops. Mrs. Freke's paper, written in lighter vein, sketched the trials and hardships that beset the daily life of the London suburban chemist from his arrival in town to prepare for the Minor to his later life, when he is more or less fully established in business. A discussion followed the papers.

Manchester.—A meeting of the Manchester Pharmaceutical Association was held in the rooms of the Chemical Society, Victoria Hotel, on February 12, when a lantern-slide show, entitled *The Story of a Pine-tree, as told by Itself*, given by Mr. W. T. Haydon, F.L.S., of Liverpool.

Haydon is by occupation an engineer, and works as chemist and manager at one of the British Oil and Cake Mills, and takes up botany, especially embryology, as a hobby, but he is no novice in this subject, having worked under Dr. Beard on the origin of cancer cells. The lecture was illustrated with many excellent slides, and Mr. Haydon told the company of about fifty greatly interested for periods of two hours by his thorough and ingenious depiction of the vicissitudes of the life of the pine-tree. J. C. Kidd (President) expressed his delight at the excellent manner in which Mr. Haydon had put before the members the interesting facts relative to the life of the pine-tree, and said he was sure that Mr. Haydon must have spent an immense amount of time in gathering together the matter so useful for such an entertaining and instructive lecture.

Mr. Grier spoke in a similar strain, and proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Haydon. Mr. Mallinson seconded, and the vote was carried with acclamation. (See National Health Insurance.)

Vincent Association.—Mr. Sydney Jamieson presided at the annual meeting held at Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C., on Friday, February 14, when the following officers were elected for the year: *President*, Mr. G. H. Zeal; *Vice-Presidents*, Messrs. C. Duncan



MR. G. H. ZEAL.

Bowie (Duncan, Flockhart & Co.) and Henry Lewis (Allen & Hanbury, Ltd.); *Treasurer*, Mr. Wilfrid Daniel (Baiss Bros. & Stevenson, Ltd.); *Secretary*, Mr. J. R. Bailey, 13 Devonshire Square, London, E.C.; *Committee* Messrs. F. W. Abbott (G. Van Abbott & Son), F. Crepin (Felton & Crepin), J. Barry Hopkins (Arnold & Sons), C. W. Martin (S. Maw, Son & Sons), S. J. Massey (Meggison & Co.), A. H. Milner (Sangers), C. A. H. Milner (Sangers), C. Pitt (C. J. Hewlett & Son, Ltd.), W. S. San- (Duncan, Flockhart & Co.), E. H. Scholl (Meister, Julius & Brüning, Ltd.), and R. E. Shepherd (Manhu Food Co.). The annual report showed an increase of membership in a year of useful work. A hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. Jamieson and Messrs. A. Milner and G. H. Zeal, the retiring members of committee. We give a portrait of Mr. Zeal, the new President, who is well known in the trade as a manufacturer of clinical thermometers.

FESTIVITIES.

Whist-drives.

The Aberdeen Pharmaceutical Association held its annual "at Home" on Tuesday, February 18, in Kennaway's Rooms. Whist was played from 8 to 10 P.M., when the company sat down to supper, presided over by the President (Mr. D. Anderson). The whist prizes were awarded as follows: *Ladies*—(1) Mrs. Leslie, (booby) Miss Tocher. *Gentlemen*—(1) Mr. W. E. Mitchell, (booby) Mr. Chas. Thompson. After supper dancing was continued up to 1 A.M., when a very pleasant meeting concluded.

On February 14 a ladies' evening in connection with the Perrogate Pharmaceutical Association was held at the Imperial Café, and was one of the most delightful functions held in connection with the Association. The President and Mrs. Ridge received the company, numbering thirty-three. The musical programme had been arranged by the ladies, and consisted of songs, recitations, monologues, and piano solos were rendered by Mrs. Mortimer, Mrs. Taylor, Mr. L. Foster, Mr. Mortimer, and Mr. Parsons Rogers. Whist was afterwards played, and at the end of the twenty-fourth round Mrs. Ridge presented the prizes as follows: *Ladies*—(1) Mrs. n. n., (2) Miss Southwell, (consolation) Miss Mitchell. *Gentlemen*—(1) Mr. Penn, (2) Mr. Windemer, (consolation) Mr. Thorpe. Special prizes: Mrs. Ridge (handed to her by the Secretary), Miss Foster, and Mr. Mortimer.

The second social evening of the North Kent District Pharmacists' Association was held on February 12 at the Masonic

Hall, Rochester. About sixty pharmacists and friends were present. The proceedings consisted of a whist-drive and concert, with refreshments in the interval. The winners of prizes in the whist were: *Ladies*—Mrs. Nichols, Miss K. Westmoreland, Miss H. Nichols, and Miss D. Callund. *Gentlemen*—Mr. Chesterfield, Mr. S. R. Pearce, Mr. A. F. Corfe, and Mr. J. E. French. Those taking part in the concert included Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Corfe, Messrs. A. Stooke, W. H. Westmoreland, R. Robinson, W. G. Wells, A. W. Ryder, J. B. Frith, H. A. J. Peasnell, H. W. Harrie, B. Tyler (Kent's), and A. Gillitt. The pleasant evening wound up at 11 P.M. with cheers for the Vice-President (Mr. W. E. Clarke), who had made all the arrangements, and who acted as Chairman and M.C. during the evening.

Dinners.

The annual dinner of A. Sarjeant & Co., Ltd., cash chemists, Palmer's Green, N., took place at the Holborn Restaurant, London, W.C., on February 13, and was thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. Among the guests were representatives of the following wholesale houses: Evans Sons Lescher & Webb (Mr. J. Harrison), Parke, Davis & Co. (Mr. J. Pinto-Nash), Thos. Christy & Co. (Mr. Frece), and Eucryl, Ltd. (Mr. F. H. Lewis). The toast "A. Sarjeant & Co., Ltd." was proposed by Mr. Harrison, and Mr. A. H. Darby replied. Mr. G. R. Turner proposed "The Chairman," and Mr. E. T. Manley replied. Mr. A. Sarjeant (managing director) proposed "The Staff and Officers," and Mr. Bennett replied. Mr. Harrington-Wilkins gave the toast of "The Visitors," and Mr. Lewis replied.

The annual dinner of the Dewsbury Pharmacists' Association was held on February 13 at Dewsbury. The President (Mr. A. B. Barker, of Heckmondwike) occupied the chair. Mr. R. Gledhill (Dewsbury) proposed the toast of "The Pharmaceutical Society," and Mr. Pilkington Sargeant, in response, mentioned the improvement in the Society's organisation which has been brought about, and referring to the National Insurance Act and Mr. O'Grady's questions in the House of Commons, said that doctors and chemists are doing their best in Leeds, and if no one is allowed to interfere between them the Act will continue to work smoothly. "Kindred Associations" was proposed by Mr. R. Broadhead, of Batley, and Mr. Taylor responded. Mr. Taylor gave the toast of "The Dewsbury Pharmacists' Association," which was replied to by Mr. Blakeley (Birstall). Mr. S. N. Pickard (Ossett) proposed the toast of "The President," and referred to the matter of fees for after-hours' dispensing, which had come before the Insurance Committee. Mr. Barker replied.

The sixth annual dinner of the "Allenburys" Athletic Club was held at the Talbot Restaurant, London Wall, London, E.C., on February 18. The Chairman (Mr. W. R. Dodd) was supported by Mr. F. C. Hanbury and Mr. R. J. Hanbury. The company numbered about seventy. A notable feature at the head table was the handsome Championship Cup of the Wholesale Chemists' and Druggists' League, which had been won without defeat by the Cricket Club during the past season. The first item after dinner was the presentation of prizes, these being as follows: First Team—Batting—(1) Mr. P. Williamson, (2) Mr. F. Whittall; bowling—(1) Mr. W. J. Stokes, (2) Mr. G. Porter. Second Team—Batting—(1) Mr. G. Hill, (2) Mr. W. Arnold; Bowling—(1) Mr. F. Shadbolt, (2) Mr. D. Donaldson. The Chairman also awarded medals to the winning team, saying that the winning of the cup was the greatest honour the team had gained. He also made a presentation of a gold medal, which had been subscribed by members of the two cricket teams, to the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. F. Lucioni), and said the medal was given in recognition of his work towards carrying the team to success. Mr. Lucioni, in a short but humorous reply, remarked that he had "meddled" with the team to advantage. The Captain (Mr. G. Porter) attributed the winning of the cup to the fact that this was the first season that proper accommodation for practice had been provided. The toast of "The Club" was proposed by Mr. R. J. Hanbury, Mr. W. J. Pretty replying. At the conclusion of his response, the latter said that 1915 would be the bicentenary of the foundation of the club, and it had been decided that it would be a fitting compliment to present Mr. Frederick Hanbury with his portrait in oils. It was proposed that it be subscribed to by every one of the 1,073 employes of the firm. It would be painted by Mr. Percy Bigland. Mr. Rickford proposed the toast of "The Firm," and Mr. F. C. Hanbury, in replying, referred to the loyal co-operation of the employes, which he believed to be due to the directors following the traditions of his grandfather. The entire musical programme was provided by members of the staff.

WESTMINSTER WISDOM.

The Week in Parliament.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE MEDICAL BILL.

The Medical Bill, which was introduced in the House of Lords, has been withdrawn for the Session. It referred to the election of direct representatives on the General Medical Council.

HOUSE FLIES.

The President of the Local Government Board has informed Mr. C. Bathurst, M.P., that it has not been found possible to prevent the prevalence of house flies in dwelling-houses, shops, and hospitals by feeding them on a fungus which proves fatal to them but is innocuous to children and animals.

BANKRUPTCY LAW REFORM.

When the House of Commons reassembles on March 6 the first order of the day will be the second reading of the Bankruptcy Bill which has already passed through the Upper House. When this has been disposed of, the House will proceed to the consideration of the second reading of the Milk and Dairies Bill.

IRELAND AND THE INSURANCE ACT.

Our Parliamentary correspondent learns that there has been some delay in opening Lord Ashby St. Ledger's inquiry into the advisability of extending the medical benefits of the National Insurance Act to Ireland, and that the meetings which were to have been held in Dublin on February 19 and following days will not now commence until the second week in March. The inquiry will be brought to a termination as speedily as possible, in order that the recommendations of the Committee may, if necessary, form the subject of an amending Bill to be introduced in the next Session of Parliament.

BOOKSTALLS AND RETAIL TRADERS.

The Home Secretary has informed Mr. Duffy, M.P., that as far as can be traced no complaints have reached his department from small shopkeepers who carry on a composite business in the immediate vicinity of railway and tube stations that while they are prohibited from selling books, pens, ink, notepaper, postcards, games, etc. on the day set apart for the weekly half-holiday, bookstalls are open on the same day for the sale of all these articles. He has no reason for thinking that the exemption of bookstalls on railway platforms from the half-holiday provisions of the Shops Act operates hardly on small shopkeepers in London generally.

[Our Parliamentary correspondent adds that out of a list of about thirty "foreign" articles which he noticed the other evening on the bookstall at a London terminus there were to be seen eau de Cologne, seccotine, brushes and combs, pens, ink, umbrella-rings, pin-cushions, toy engines, caps, knives, purses, rugs, watches, hat-guards, and pocket-books.]

NATIONAL INSURANCE MEDICAL BENEFIT.

The following questions and answers were given in the House of Commons before the adjournment until March 6:

DOCTORS CHARGING FOR MEDICINES.—Mr. Needham asked whether a doctor who is working under the Act, in addition to giving a prescription and advice, can also sell medicines to the insured person to be paid for by the insured person.—Mr. Masterman replied that, except in the special circumstances where a doctor is allowed to dispense under the Act in accordance with Paragraph 30 of the Medical Benefit Regulations, no payment could be made to him out of the Insurance funds for any drugs supplied by him to insured persons, who are entitled to obtain them free from any chemist on the panel. He did not think it would be proper for such an arrangement to be made as is described in the question.

INTRICATE CLERICAL WORK.—Mr. Masterman has informed Mr. F. Midmay, M.P., that he knows of no reason why such intricate clerical work as that suggested by the hon. member should be required from doctors dispensing medicines in rural areas as to cause them to intimate to insured patients residing at a greater distance than three miles from a qualified chemist that they will be unable to dispense for this class as in the past. Doctors dispensing in such areas may be permitted to receive a flat rate per insured person where the capitation system is in force, or per prescription

where the attendance system is in force. He would inquire whether doctors are exercising the power or refusing to dispense medicines for those living at a greater distance than three miles from a chemist.

KIDNEY-BELTS.—Mr. Masterman has informed Mr. Newdegate that the question of including kidney-belts among appliances supplied under the Act is receiving consideration, and he had no doubt there would be some speedy result.

REPEATS.—Captain Knight asked why an Insurance patient cannot obtain a second supply of medicine without having a further interview with the medical officer, and obtaining a second prescription.—Mr. Masterman replied that these requirements would be imposed by the rules of the institutions to which the insured person belongs. It has not been imposed by any regulation of the Commissioners. The institutions which the hon. member had in mind may, however, reasonably consider that it is in the best interests of the patient that the decision as to repeating a medicine should rest with the medical attendant of the patient rather than with the patient himself, and that a prescription should not be repeated without a written statement to that effect by the medical attendant.

THE SESSION OF 1913.

According to present arrangements the King will inaugurate the new Session of Parliament on Monday, March 10. The debate on the Address is not expected to occupy more than a week, and the House will then proceed to the consideration of the final estimates for the year. After Easter the Home Rule and Welsh Church Bills will, under a rigorous guillotine, be sent to the Upper House on their second journey.

TRADE-MARKS.

Objections to the registration of any of the undermentioned applications must be stated on Form T.M. No. 7 (obtainable at Money Order Offices for £1) and lodged with Mr. W. Temple Franks, Comptroller-General, Patents Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C., within one month of the dates mentioned.

The figures in parentheses refer to the classes in which the marks are desired, for a list of which, with particulars as to registration, see "The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary," p. 444.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," February 12, 1913.)

- "VIMTO"; for medicines (3). By J. N. Nichols & Co., 203A Chapel Street, Salford. 347,807.
- "KENOLINE"; for medicinal chemicals (3). By H. Leggett, 236 Beverley Road, Hull. 348,235.
- "BISMIST"; for medicinal chemicals (3). By Reynolds & Branson, Ltd., 13 Briggate, Leeds. 348,773.
- "GOLD CROSS" and "SILVER CROSS"; for surgical dressings, bandages, etc. (11). By Fassett & Johnson, 86 Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C. 345,059/61.
- "AIRLITE," with picture of a winged foot wearing arch-support; for arch-supports (11). By the Scholl Mfg. Co., Ltd., 1-4 Giltspur Street, London, E.C. 346,965.
- "VALORA"; for photographic paper (39). By Ilford, Ltd., Roden Street, Ilford, London, E. 348,671.
- "UZOL"; for a grease-removing preparation (47). By W. Butterfield, 56 Bolton Road, Blackburn. 347,602.
- "WINDFALL" and "RIVAL"; for goods (47) and for perfumery, etc. (48). By J. Knight, Ltd., Silvertown, London, E. 348,332/3, 348,609/10.
- Picture of rowlock, with words "ROWLOCK BRAND"; for goods (47) and for perfumery, etc. (48). By Hazlehurst & Sons, Ltd., 17 Highfield Street, Liverpool. 348,357/8.
- "MEN-COL"; for perfumery, etc. (48). By T. F. Bristow & Co., Ltd., 13 St. James's Walk, Clerkenwell, London, E.C. 348,401.
- "CIRCULATE"; for a skin-preparation (48). By Tokalon, Ltd., 212 Great Portland Street, London, W. 348,573.
- "AEROLETTES" and "LECIDERMIN"; for perfumery, etc. (48). By H. Bronnley & Co., Ltd., Warple Way, London, W. 348,621/2.

ALTERATION OF REGISTERED TRADE-MARK.—Leave has been given to Jeyes' Sanitary Compounds Co., Ltd., to alter their trade-mark No. 186,844. It now consists of picture of nurse wearing Red Cross badge washing her hands with contents of basin marked "JEYES'."

C. & D. SHOPS ACT NOTICE.—An inspector of shops under one of the County Councils, writing in regard to the notice-card which we publish for exhibition by chemists during closing hours on the half-holiday, says: "The notice seems to be as little objectionable to the shopkeeper as it can be made." We supply a pair of the notices for 8d., post free.

TRADE REPORT.

The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers receive the goods into stock, after which much expense may be incurred in garbling and the like. Qualities of chemicals, drugs, oils, and many other commodities vary greatly, and higher prices than those here quoted are charged for selected qualities of natural products even in bulk quantities. Retail buyers cannot, therefore, for these and other reasons, expect to purchase at the prices quoted here.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C., February 20.

BUSINESS does not show any improvement in the open markets for chemicals and drugs, few changes having occurred. Codeine and its salts have been reduced substantially, and morphine and cocaine have an easy tone on second-hands. New cod-liver oil is in upward tendency in view of the very meagre results from the fishery, and consequently the market is being carefully watched by buyers. Asafetida has been in more demand at the recent lower range of values. Balsam Canada is firmer and castor oil easier. Lemon oil shows a partial recovery from last week's decline. Quicksilver has again dropped in second-hands, first-hands being nominal. Ammonia sulphate, lead compounds, and antimony are firmer. Sweet almond oil and citric acid are dearer to-day. The principal changes have been as under:

Higher	Firmer	Easier	Lower
Almond oil (B.P. sweet) Balsam, Canada adamoms Citric acid Lander seed megs	Cananga oil Cinchona (auction) Cod liver oil (1913) Cumin seed Wax, bees' (Jam, and Madag.)	Ammonia sulphate Antimony Castor oil (Belgian) Cocaine (sec. hands.) Lead compounds Turmeric	Codeine and salts Copper sulphate Quicksilver (sec. hands.)

Cablegram.

BERGEN, February 20.—Stormy weather prevails in the cod-fishing district, and small progress has been made. Market is firm at 80s. 6d. per barrel c.i.f. for new Norwegian medicinal oil.

London Markets.

ALMOND OIL.—English pressers' price has advanced 1d. to 2s. 2d. for sweet (B.P.). *Persic* is unchanged at 11d.

ANISEED is unchanged at 26s. per cwt. for fair Russian, a little business doing.

ASAFETIDA.—A fair quantity has been sold at steady prices, sellers showing more disposition to meet the market, prices generally are on a more reasonable level; quotations between 55s. and 5l. 10s. have been chiefly in hand.

BALSAM CANADA, is dearer at from 4s. to 4s. 1d. per lb. on spot, according to holder.

BERGAMOT OIL.—From 27s. to 28s. c.i.f. is quoted for 37 per cent. esters.

CANANGA OIL is firmer at 11s. 6d. per lb. in original

CINCHONA-SEED is firm at 92s. 6d. per quarter for ordinary cocco and 95s. to 98s. for good. Some cleaned River cocco has been sold at 85s. c.i.f. terms.

CANNABIS INDICA.—Genuine Bombay tops are non-existent, and of Marmagosa tops there is only one case in first-hand, for which 4s. 3d. is wanted. East African tops are available at 1s.

CARAWAY-SEED is very slow of sale at 27s. per cwt. on the spot for fair Dutch.

CASTOR OIL.—Belgium is easier, first pressing for prompt delivery offering at 29l. per ton, and March-December at 28l. in barrels, ex wharf London. Hull make of first pressing in barrels is 29l. for prompt and 28l. 15s. for March-June delivery; pharmaceutical quality 50s. per ton extra, delivered free on wharf London.

CHAULMOOGRA OIL.—From India higher prices are quoted; the spot value is from 3s. to 3s. 2d. net.

CINCHONA.—Further particulars in regard to the auction to be held at Amsterdam on February 27 show that 16,481 packages weigh 1,420,898 kilos. and contain the equivalent of 85,042 kilos. quinine sulphate. The weight of the manufacturing bark is 1,333,483 kilos. and the pharmaceutical bark 87,415 kilos., containing respectively 81,768 kilos. and 3,274 kilos. quinine sulphate. The average percentage of the quinine in the manufacturing bark is 6.13, as compared with 6.27 per cent. in January. The exports of cinchona from Java to Europe during the first half of February amounted to 983,000 Amst. lb., against 710,000 Amst. lb. at the corresponding period of 1912. At the London auction on Tuesday 627 packages were offered, of which about 300 sold at and since the sale, the average unit being firmer at 1½d. per lb., against ¾d. per lb. Of East Indian, 297 packages offered and 81 sold, including officialis bold mossy quill at 5d., original quilly chips at 2½d. to 3½d., root 3½d. to 4½d., and root 2½d. to 3½d. Of Java, 330 packages offered, and rather more than half sold at from 3½d. to 4½d. for Ledgeriana root and 2d. to 2½d. for branch.

CITRIC ACID is dearer at 1s. 7d., the English makers having sold a limited quantity at this price to their regular customers, no forward contracts being entertained. It is difficult to find sellers among dealers owing to lack of stock.

CITRONELLA OIL.—Ceylon is steady at from 1s. 6½d. to 1s. 6½d. per lb. for small drums on spot, and to arrive 1s. 4½d. c.i.f. is quoted.

COCA-LEAVES.—Further particulars in regard to the Amsterdam auctions to be held on February 27 show that the 2,262 packages to be offered weigh 116,465 kilos. and contain a total of 1,947 kilos. alkaloids, the average percentage being 1.67, as compared with 1.61 per cent. in January. The exports of coca from Java to Europe during January amounted to 4,400 packages, and not 1,600 packages as formerly reported.

COCAINE.—The makers' quotation continues unchanged on the basis of 7s. per oz. for 175-oz. lots of hydrochloride, but rather easier prices have been accepted by second-hand holders.

CODEINE.—The makers announce a reduction of 1s. per oz. in the price of pure codeine and 1s. 1d. in the salts, the quotations being as follows:

	Small lots	Contracts over 6 months
	70 oz.	175 oz.
Pure Cryst. ...	16s. 3d.	15s. 10d.
Pure Precip. ...	16s. 3d.	15s. 10d.
Hydrochlor. ...	14s. 5d.	14s. 0d.
Sulphate ...	14s. 5d.	14s. 0d.
Phosphate ...	13s. 2d.	12s. 9d.

The above prices are per oz. net, without engagement, and contracts are booked subject to the falling clause on undelivered balances.

COD-LIVER OIL.—In view of the very poor results shown by the Lofoten cod-fishing, the market is in upward tendency, and more demand is reported, buyers preferring to have a little to go on with. Quotations vary from 77s. to 80s. per barrel c.i.f. terms, and guaranteed genuine new Lofoten oil has been sold in small lots at the higher figure, while old Lofoten oil is offered at 75s. c.i.f. Several agents are without offers of new oil.

The cabled statistics of the Norwegian cod-fishing up to February 15, as compared with the corresponding date of last year, are as follows:

	Catch of Cod.	Livers for Raw Oils (hect.)	Yield of c.l.o. (hect.)
Lofoten, 1913...	371,000	157	214
Do. 1912	1,800,000	149	1,366
Whole country, 1913	7,007,000	2,158	5,909
Do. 1912	12,260,000	2,666	11,458

It will be seen from the above that the decrease for Lofoten as compared with last year is 1,172 hectolitres of oil. As regards the whole of Norway, the decline is 5,549 hectolitres, which is considerable. Weather is reported to be stormy, and the catch is consequently small. Finest oil is nominally quoted 80s. per barrel, c.i.f. London, without engagement.

Our Bergen correspondent writes on February 17 that stormy weather has prevented fishing during the past week; consequently there is but a slight increase in the quantities caught, which are as follows:

	1911	1912	1913
Catch of cod (millions) ...	3.	12.3	7.
Yield of cod-liver oil (hect.) ...	2,150	11,500	5,900
Livers for "raw" oils (hect.) ...	2,000	2,750	2,150

The tendency of the market is decidedly firmer, and last season's non-congealing oil cannot be obtained at the last quotation of 74s. c.i.f. For new season's Lofoten oil 80s. c.i.f. has been offered. The exports of oil from all Norway during the month of January amounted to 4,367 barrels, against 3,017 barrels during the same period of 1912.

COPPER SULPHATE is 5s. per ton cheaper at 22l. 15s. for ordinary Liverpool brands and 23l. forward.

CORIANDEER-SEED is dearer, with business reported at 13s. 9d. per cwt. for slightly wormy Morocco and at 15s. for sound.

CUMIN-SEED is firmer; a parcel of good Morocco has been sold at 25s. per cwt.

FENUGREEK-SEED remains unchanged at 10s. to 10s. 6d. per cwt. for Morocco on the spot.

GUM ACACIA.—Privately the value on spot of ordinary Sudan sorts is 35s. per cwt., and for Senegal gum the value is 35s. 6d. net with small spot supplies. In the drug-auction 53 bags ordinary glassy Sudan sorts had been sold privately; two bags yellowish soft, part small, realised 50s.

HYDRASTIS.—Quiet, at 16s. 9d. c.i.f. to arrive, and 17s. on spot.

LEMON OIL.—The weaker tone announced last week is not apparent in all quarters, and some recovery has been shown; but quotations are fluctuating, and continue to show a wide margin, prompt shipment offering at from 11s. 5d. to 12s. 6d. per lb. c.i.f.; the value of spot is from 12s. to 12s. 6s. for good brands.

LINSEED is steady at 57s. 6d. to 60s. per quarter for good clean quality.

LINSEED OIL closes at 27s. in pipes, at 27s. 6d. in barrels on spot, and February at 27s.

A monthly report states: "We would not be surprised to see indications of weakening within the next week or so, as there is a considerable quantity of oil afloat due to arrive in the U.K.; and while the spot demand is heavy, it is thought this may partly relieve the tightness. Unfortunately, the shipments of seed from the Argentine are not yet as heavy as was expected, but it is stated that exports at the rate of 30,000 to 40,000 tons a week can be looked for from the middle of February on. News from India during the last fortnight has not been particularly favourable, due to lack of rain. These reports have not, however, affected the market much, and it is believed they are exaggerated, at least so far as possible damage to linseed is concerned. Price of linseed in the U.S.A. has advanced considerably during the last three weeks, due, it is claimed, to manipulation."

MENTHOL.—Business is reported for March-April shipment with equal quantity of oil at 31s. 3d. per lb. c.i.f., but 32s. is since asked; on the spot small sales of Suzuki have been made at 29s., with 29s. 6d. asked at the close; at the moment Kobayashi is comparatively scarce on spot. Hamburg offers stuff ex December-February shipment from Japan at 27s. 6d., and ex January-February shipment from Japan at 27s. c.i.f. London; ex Hamburg warehouse can be had at 29s. per lb. net c.i.f., which is slightly above the London parity. The *Kamo Maru* has brought 20 cases to London, also 10 cases in transit.

OLIVE OIL.—In further reference to the prices quoted last week, those of another London importer are: Finest genuine Provence 1913 season, 7s. to 7s. 2d. per gal.; "surfine", Provence, 6s. 6d.; B.P. qualities from 4s. 4½d. to 4s. 8d., according to the parcel. These prices are to large wholesale buyers.

OPIMUM.—The position remains unchanged, the demand being quite retail. From Smyrna a cable quotes 11 per

cent. druggists' at 16s. 9d. c.i.f., and from Salonica 13½ per cent. is quoted 22s. c.i.f.; on the spot the value of druggists' is from 20s. to 21s. Fine soft shipping on spot is very scarce, and for selected Hadjiken 27s. has been paid for small lots. Persian is without demand at from 18s. to 22s., as to test.

A Smyrna correspondent writes on February 7 that the market continues quiet, but owing to reported fresh damage to the poppy by frost sellers are tenaciously maintaining the position. The only sales are 18 cases of new and old druggists' at 17s. 9d. to 18s. 6d. as to quality; extra selected Karahissar is firm at 18s. 9d. for new and 19s. 6d. for old. The arrivals in Smyrna are 2,271 cases, against 1,095 at same date last year.

A Constantinople correspondent writes on February 15 that the sales amounted to four cases druggists' at 243 pirs., four Yozgats at 240 pirs., and four Malatias at 250 pirs. per ok. Market is quiet, but holders firm. At the moment the banks are abstaining from exercising further pressure on holders.

ORANGE OIL.—For Sicilian sweet 11s. c.i.f. is quoted, being steady.

PEPPERMINT OIL.—American cables continue to indicate a very firm market for tin oil; on the spot agents quote 12s. to 12s. 6d., as to brand, the demand being chiefly jobbing. Six cases of Japanese dementholised (Suzuki) sold in auction without reserve at from 6s. 8d. to 6s. 9d. Privately Suzuki is quoted 6s. 11d., and for Kobayashi 7s. has been paid on spot.

QUICKSILVER has further declined to 7l. 5s. from second-hands, the Baron's price being unaltered at 7l. 15s. nominal. The already large stock has been augmented by the addition this week of 5,000 flasks from Seville.

SENEGA.—Quiet, with sellers at 2s. 8d. net on spot.

SHELLAC.—During the early part of the week market was irregular and easier, but subsequently a firmer tone set in, the spot price closing on Wednesday at 81s. for fair TN orange, 79s. for free A.C. Garnet, and 68s. for G.A.L. Futures are higher, the sales including March at 80s. 6d. to 85s.; May at 83s. to 86s., and August 85s. to 88s.

SOY remains firm, Seuloong brand selling at 1s. 8d. per gal. spot.

SPICES.—At auction 23 cases Penang were bought in at from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3d. for good to fine; privately the market is quiet, with sellers of Zanzibar at 10½d.; to arrive January-March shipment is quoted 10½d. c.i.f., and new crop for September-December has been sold at 7d. c.i.f.; there are buyers of March-May delivery at 10½d. Of Jamaica *Ginger* 47 bags dull washed Jamaica sold at 48s. 6d. West Indian *Nutmegs* were ¼d. to ½d. per lb. dearer, 330 packages out of 343 offered being disposed of. West Indian *Mace* was steady, 76 packages selling at 2s. 3d. to 2s. 4d. for fair pale, 2s. to 2s. 2d. for fair to good reddish, and 1s. 9d. to 2s. for ordinary to good broken. No *Pepper* offered at auction; privately fair Singapore *black* has been sold at 5½d. spot, and for *white* Singapore sellers quote 8½d., and fair Muntok 8½d.

TURMERIC is easier, the sales including several hundred bags fair to good Madras finger at from 20s. to 22s. per cwt., and Cochin split bulbs at 15s.

TURPENTINE is about 9d. per cwt. higher on the week, American closing at 32s. 6d. on the spot.

A dealer's report states: "We look for increased consumption this year, and the expectations are that the crop will be smaller than last year, so that some advance in prices may be anticipated later; we judge, however, there will not be much change until the spring."

WAX, CARNAUBA.—In Liverpool small sales of yellow were made at 211s. 6d. per cwt. from store.

WAX, JAPANESE.—Steady on the spot at 46s. per cwt., and for arrival sales for February-March and March-April have been made at 42s. 6d. c.i.f. Liverpool.

London Drug-auctions.

Commercial Sale-Rooms.

Mincing Lane, E.C., February 20.

ONLY small supplies of drugs were offered at the first-hand auctions, which were concluded before midday, the tone being quiet. Cape aloes sold, subject to seller's approval, at firm prices for firsts, but secondary qualities were firmer. Sumatra benzoin was steady, but quiet. Cardamoms proved the feature of the auction extreme rates being paid for the small supplies. Java ground coca-leaves were a shade

er. Fennel-seed sold at rather firmer rates, and a per demand was shown for gum acacia. Ipecacuanha nominally held for higher prices, but brokers are open bids. New orange-peel sold steadily. Rhubarb was out demand, and for grey Jamaica sarsaparilla, which scarce, an advance of 3*d.* was paid. Common Tinnevely a sold at firm rates. Beeswax showed an advance of *d.* in Madagascar and Jamaica. The following table shows the quantity of goods offered and sold:

	Offered	Sold		Offered	Sold
ite	28	0	Laurel-oil	3	0
s—			Lime-juice	10	0
pe	25	25	Lime oil	6	6
am peru	2	0	Mastich	3	0
oin—			Myrrh	5	0
matra	119	8	Nux vomica	60	0
u	8	4	Opium	1	0
mba	10	0	Orange-peel	21	9
phor—			Papain	10	0
p. ref. (½ oz.)	10	0	Peppermint oil ..	6	6
anoms & seed	113	86	Quinine (oz.)	8,000	0
lmoogra oil ..	5	0	Rhubarb (China)...	32	0
etta	10	0	Sarsaparilla—		
leaves	60	60	Grey Jam.	4	4
ynth	20	0	Mexican	10	0
on-seed	3	0	Senna and pods—		
as	10	10	Alexandrian	12	0
on's-blood	4	0	Tinnevely	125	68
i	17	0	Squill	5	0
.....	9	0	Tamarinds	65	0
lyptus oil	25	0	Tragacanth	26	0
el-seed	220	3	Turmeric	362	0
oge	17	0	Wax (Bees)—		
acum	2	2	Australian	2	0
acacia	93	91	China	7	0
y—			East African	8	4
Lucia	28	0	East Indian	69	0
uanha—			Jamaica	2	2
to Grosso ..	15	1	Madagascar	17	17
ala	9	0	Mombasa	3	3
.....	3	3	Morocco	30	0
			Wax, veg. (Jap.)...	20	0

ES.—Cape, of which 25 cases offered on 20-per-cent. sold at firm prices, including good hard bright at 3*s.*, good seconds at 3*s.* 6*d.*, ordinary dull, partly and broken, at 3*s.* per cwt., all subject to seller's usual, importers' limits not having been received.

LSAM PERU.—Two cases of direct import from utula were limited at 8*s.* per lb., at which sales have made privately.

NZOIN was steady, eight cases of Sumatra good ds, packed with white almonds in streaks and of nice flavour, sold at 8*s.* 5*d.*, good fair seconds were ed at 7*s.* 15*s.*, fair at 6*s.* 15*s.*, and good thirds with a bold scattered almonds at 5*s.* 15*s.*

CHU.—No good green round leaf was offered; a single of stalks with a few bold green round leaves (sifted sold at 2*s.* 10*d.*; and for a bale of slightly stalky good ovals 1*s.* 11*d.* was paid. Two bales of "klips" without reserve at 1*d.* per lb. For bronzy ovals with ed stems 1*s.* 6*d.* was wanted, and for a bale of good ish longs, slightly mixed with chopped stems, 4*s.* 6*d.* he price.

PHOR (REFINED).—Ten cases of ¼-oz. Japanese tab- were limited at 1*s.* 8*d.* per lb. net, no allowances.

RDAMOMS.—The small supplies met with a keen de- and prices rose from 4*d.* to 6*d.* per lb. all round, following rates being paid: Ceylon-Mysore, extra bold pale smooth, 6*s.*; good bold to fine pale, 5*s.* 8*d.* to 10*d.*; bold and medium dullish to pale, 5*s.* 6*d.* to 7*d.*; small and medium pale, 5*s.* to 5*s.* 4*d.*; dullish um, 5*s.* 1*d.* to 5*s.* 2*d.*; ordinary small dullish, 4*s.* 8*d.* 9*d.*; splits, 5*s.* 4*d.*; brown and split, 4*s.* 2*d.* to 4*s.* 9*d.* e of seed was held at 4*s.* 9*d.* A parcel of 49 cases ar character, small to medium, unbleached, sold at 7*s.* per lb.

annual report of the Matala Planters' Association that the crop in the Matala has been short, even less the previous year, owing to unsuitable weather con- and the age of most of the cardamom fields. Pro- owing to this shortage, which seems to have been al everywhere, prices have been very good—especially g the latter part of the year. There has been no

extent of new land opened up, and the crop, therefore, from the Matala district is not likely to increase in the future unless the present good prices induce those with suitable land to open it up. The general opinion among growers seems to be that the present prices, with only slight fluctuations, are likely to continue.

COCA-LEAVES.—A lot of 60 bags fair greenish powdered Java sold at 5*d.*, pale greenish at 4½*d.*, and sweepings at 3½*d.* per lb., being rather firmer.

CUSCUS.—Ten bales of fair sold without reserve at 8*s.* per cwt.

EUCALYPTUS OIL.—Quiet. A parcel of 55 packages Australian was limited at 1*s.* 6*d.* for cloudy greenish B.P. 80 per cent. eucalyptol, and at 1*s.* 5*d.* for drums contain- ing 78 per cent. eucalyptol; and in another instance 10 cases catalogued as globulus, 75 per cent. eucalyptol, 1*s.* 8*d.* was wanted.

FENNEL-SEED.—Three bags of fair clean East Indian sold at 19*s.* per cwt.

GAMBOGE.—Quiet; good bright slightly damp and blocky Siam pipe was held at 14*s.* 10*s.*, and for a parcel of five cases ordinary unsorted and blocky pipe 13*s.* was wanted.

GUAIACUM.—Two barrels from San Domingo sold at 1*s.* per lb. for ordinary drossy to fair block.

IPECACUANHA.—Quiet; 15 bales of Matto Grosso, includ- ing good bright stout quality, were held at the higher rate of 9*s.*, which is practically the old limit, but rather less would be accepted. A bale of Matto Grosso, false packed with Bahia (spurious), sold at 6*s.* 3*d.* per lb. Privately the balance of the recently imported parcel of Johore has been cleared at 7*s.*, and subsequently re-sales were made from second-hands of this lot.

KOLA.—Steady; three bags of good halves and whole West Indian sold at 4½*d.* and ordinary slightly mouldy (one bag) at 4*d.* per lb.

LAUREL OIL.—Three cases of guaranteed genuine lying at a private warehouse were held at 80*s.* per cwt.

LIME OIL.—Two cases of hand-pressed from St. Lucia sold at 11*s.* 6*d.* per lb., and for four carboys of distilled, also from St. Lucia, 1*s.* 4*d.* was paid.

ORANGE-PEEL.—Steady; nine packages of fair pale Tripoli strip selling at 6*d.* in barrels and 6½*d.* in cases.

QUININE.—At auction 3,000 oz. H.B. of about 1904 im- port were offered and bought in at 10½*d.*, and 5,000 oz. B. & S. (imported June 1912) were held at 10½*d.* per oz. Privately, the second-hand market is quiet, with sellers at 10½*d.* and buyers at 10*d.* for the usual German brands. It is stated that the agreement between planters and makers is, barring accidents, to be signed at Amsterdam next week.

RHUBARB.—Nothing sold publicly; bold flat High-dried, with three-quarters dullish pinky fracture, was limited at 1*s.* 1*d.*, small and medium flat at 1*s.* 1*d.* also, rough round at 11*d.*, Rhapontica character at 5½*d.* to 6½*d.* for fair finger to small round and stemmy. No Shensi or Canton offered.

SARSAPARILLA.—Genuine grey Jamaica being scarce and nothing in sight, the four bales offered sold at 2*s.* 5*d.* for good beardy, and 2*s.* 4*d.* for fair, with a few rough hanks. Ten bales of Mexican were limited at 8*d.* per lb.

SENNA.—Only common small partly specky Tinnevely leaf offered, and the bulk sold at from 1½*d.* to 1½*d.*, one lot 1½*d.* per lb. Five bales fair medium greenish leaf sold without reserve at 2½*d.* Pods sold at 1½*d.* to 1½*d.* for mostly ordinary dark. Twelve bales of Alexandrian pods, slightly torn, of fair quality, were limited at 6*d.* to 7*d.* per lb.

SQUILL.—Five bales of fair creamy dry were limited at 3*d.* per lb.

WAX, BEES.—Jamaica was steady, two packages selling at 7*s.* 12*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. for fair reddish and brown block, Thirteen mats Madagascar changed hands at 7*s.* 5*s.* for fair, a little darkish, and four bags at 7*s.* for ordinary part slightly drossy; three bags fair red and brown mixed from Mombasa sold at 7*s.* 5*s.*; four blocks East African realised 7*s.* 2*s.* 6*d.* without reserve, and for 12 cases unbleached Bombay a bid of 6*s.* 5*s.* is to be submitted.

Heavy Chemicals.

Business in the heavy-chemical market is of a somewhat more active character at all main centres of the industry. There is a better general demand for miscellaneous products, while at the same time calls against existing contracts show an improvement. Export trade is also better. Values are well maintained, and rule on the steady side.

ALUMINA-PRODUCTS are steady and in fair request for both home and export. Crystal alum, lump, 5*l.* 15*s.* to 6*l.* 10*s.*, and ground, in bags, 6*l.* 5*s.* to 7*l.* per ton, free on rails, Lancashire or Yorkshire, or f.o.b. Hull, Goole, or Liverpool. Sulphate of alumina, purest qualities, practically free of iron, 5*l.* to 5*l.* 10*s.* per ton for ordinary strength, in casks, with usual allowances for loose slabs, and customary extras for higher concentrations. Aluminous cake, 50*s.* to 60*s.* per ton, according to quality, quantity, and destination; and aluminio-ferric, 52*s.* 6*d.* to 60*s.* per ton. Hydrate of alumina, high strength Al_2O_3 and purest quality, 12*l.* 10*s.* to 13*l.* 10*s.* per ton, free on rails, in casks. Aluminate of soda, high strength Al_2O_3 and purest quality, 27*s.* 6*d.* to 30*s.* per cwt. Carbonate of alumina, 30*s.* to 32*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

LEAD-PRODUCTS are easier since last quoted. Present nearest: Dry white-lead, 24*l.*; red-lead, 19*l.* 5*s.* to 19*l.* 10*s.*; pig lead, 17*l.* 10*s.*; sheets, 22*l.*; and pipes, 22*l.* 10*s.* per ton, Tyne; white acetate of lead, 25*l.* 10*s.* to 26*l.* 10*s.*; brown acetate of lead, 24*l.* to 25*l.*; and nitrate of lead, 23*l.* 5*s.* to 23*l.* 15*s.*

STRONTIUM PRODUCTS call for little special comment. There is a fair average demand at usual prices. Precipitated carbonate of strontia, 90 to 95 per cent., 11*l.* to 12*l.* 10*s.* per ton, according to quantity, etc. Mineral carbonate of strontia, lump, 86 to 90 per cent., 14*l.*; and smalls, 80 to 85 per cent., 12*l.* per ton. Hydrate of strontia, crystals, 9*l.* to 9*l.* 15*s.* per ton in casks.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA keeps on the quiet side, with present nearest values as follows: Beckton, 25-per-cent. ammonia guaranteed, February-April, 13*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; London terms, prompt, 13*l.* 10*s.*; Leith, 14*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*; Liverpool, 14*l.* 5*s.*; and Hull, 14*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*

Quicksilver.

There has been an unusual widening of the discount for second-hand lots in this market for some time past, and some people a week or two ago were looking for a drastic adjustment of the Baron's quotation, but the latter has been maintained throughout at 7*l.* 15*s.* per bottle; the quotation is, of course, nominal. While business has been done in second-hand down to 7*l.* 6*s.* for Spanish, it is understood that Italian quicksilver is obtainable at 7*l.* 4*s.*, and there is naturally a suspicion that an official reduction for Spanish may ensue at any time, inasmuch as the export demand is now very quiet, especially for China. Another bearish argument is that stocks in Continental dealers' hands have accumulated of late, while the exports from Spain to London are during February and March usually on the increase. The exports to India were exceptionally heavy during the last two months, but supplies on this side are now doubtless increasing. In some quarters the theory that sales of first-hand Spanish are being quietly made below the official price is rather discredited. Be that as it may, the market is very puzzling, and there are people who even suggest that a big decline of, say, 1*l.* per bottle would be more in accordance with market conditions; this, however, is rather premature. Of course, much depends upon the state of the demand. Should China come in and buy good quantities, those who have been taking liberties with the market of late may be punished, although it is believed that there is not a heavy account open on the bear tack.

Linseed Oil.

In our issue of January 25 (p. 132) we dealt with this season's prospects for linseed oil, taking a broad view of possible future movements, and pointing out the unusual and unprecedented abundance of supplies in sight, thanks to big crops. In the interim, however, surface appearances have become rather misleading through a temporary scarcity of spot oil, this being partly due to the rush of buying accelerated by the rapid fall in prices down to about 23*l.* per ton in London. This scarcity, aggravated by repurchases against speculative over-sales at much higher prices, has resulted in a sharp recovery, more particularly for early delivery, which has been raised to a premium of about 3*l.* per ton compared with March-April contracts, while orders can be placed for September-December delivery at about 4*l.* per ton discount. This sufficiently tends to emphasise the drift of values in the long run, although the available supplies are at present rather inadequate to meet the much heavier trade requirements consequent upon the much lower prices ruling. It is meanwhile rather significant that River Plate shippers are meeting the European demand for seed to the fullest extent, as the crop move-

ment should henceforth extend to dimensions more commensurate with the record crop harvested. In contrast to last year, the Argentine situation is free from labour troubles. The supplies afloat are now steadily increasing, so that the buying of seed is likely to become more conservative. There is certainly no reason why consumers should buy linseed oil beyond urgent needs, especially for near delivery, which is likely to become much cheaper as the supply becomes more normal. Within the next few months the world's shipments of seed are expected to show a very big increase, so that there is a disposition to overlook the rather disappointing crop reports regarding India. Canada has yet a large surplus of seed for export, which is of excellent quality.

Java Cinchona.

"De Indische Mercur" of January 28 states that at a meeting of the Cinchona-planters' Syndicate held at Bandoeng on December 13 last, a telegram was received from the Syndicate of European Quinine-makers practically agreeing to the terms of the Convention proposed between them and the planters. The contract is to be for three years, during which time the planters are to provide yearly bark, equivalent to 500,000 kilos. of quinine sulphate at a minimum price of five cents per unit so long as quinine sulphate sells in the open market at 16.50 florins per kilo, or less, any rise in price being shared between the planters and the manufacturers.

The new Government quinine-factory is to be the subject of a separate agreement, which provides that it may produce 12,000 kilos. of sulphate yearly for official use, any excess to be the subject of special arrangement between the various parties.

During the first year, makers of quinine are not to sell more than 50,000 kilos. of their reserve stocks of sulphate, which are said to amount to 200,000 kilos. Of the 500,000 kilos. of quinine sulphate referred to above, the Bandoeng factory is allocated 60,000, part of this being in consideration of the loss incurred by the withdrawal of the privilege of making the Government quinine.

The planters are well pleased with these terms, which are believed to have been secured by the intervention of the Dutch East Indian Government. Planters' delegates are now being selected to proceed to Europe for the completion of the agreement.

The prospect of this agreement being carried through has had a very good effect on the cinchona share market. Thus on the Saturday following the meeting, Tjisaroenie shares rose from 148.5 to 152.5 per cent., Pangheotan from 140 to 145 per cent., and Kertamanah and Tjidamar each showed 10 per cent. rises, while Pasir Nangka shares rose 35 per cent. and Telega Patengan 20 per cent. There was also a good demand for Bandoeng Quinine-factory shares. Tea shares also rose, but other concerns were quiet.

Olive-oil Market.

Messrs. Gill & Duffus, 20 and 21 St. Dunstan's Hill, E.C., send us the following report:

"The 1912-13 crop is undoubtedly a very bad one in practically every producing country, Spain especially having only low-grade oils of high acidity, as compared with a normal season, and there are small quantities of that. The market for the finest edible Provence and Italian oils opened high, but, owing to the complete absence of demand, prices gradually went back, and to-day they are nearly 1*s.* per gal. lower than at the opening; but there is now a much firmer tone, and we would not be surprised if it is proved that the market is now too low and that we shall see a distinct reaction. We attribute the absence of demand to the fact that the exporting merchants in the countries of production, and the buyers here also, laid in heavy stocks of old oil when they knew that the 1912-13 crop was going to be bad. At the opening of the season there was a very wide variation in prices quoted on this market; this may have been due to speculation, but, in our opinion, it is more likely to be attributed to the intention of many of the shippers to ship a blend of old and new oils. We therefore think it would be a wise precaution for buyers to demand emphatic guarantees as to any oil purchased being composed solely of new-crop olive oil. We have tasted samples of so-called new Provence olive oils which were undoubtedly old oils. A few days back there were some very nice parcels of B.P. olive oils being offered at much lower prices than had been quoted some time previously, but these low offers seem to have been withdrawn, and we think that it would be well for buyers to cover in, as we are of opinion suitable oils will not be easily procurable later even at a much higher rate. The market for edible olive oil was also probably affected by the closing of a great many French sardine-packing factories. Large quantities of olive oil are used in this industry."

SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS.

Temperatures under this heading are on the Centigrade scale.

Kephalidon.—This body is the hydrobromide of amino-acet-para-phenetidin-caffeine, of the formula $C_{10}H_{12}O_3N_2$ Br. It is a white, bitter powder, melting at 192° , and is recommended in cases of migraine, neurasthenia, headaches, etc.

Doriform.—This new remedy, which is described as an innocuous, non-irritant, and odourless powder, is claimed to be a very powerful skin-antiseptic. It is a fine yellow powder, and is a combination of oxide of bismuth with tetra-bromo-pyrocatechin.

X₃.—Sir Joseph J. Thomson, in a letter to "Nature" of February 13 refers to the plentiful production of a new gas of atomic weight 3 (which he terms X₃) by bombarding metals and other bodies with α -rays. He says he has observed traces of helium and neon accompanying the gases. He also states that the production of X₃ seems to have escaped the notice of Professor Collie and Mr. Patterson (*C. & D.*, February 15, index folio 250). Sir J. J. Thomson finds the gases are firmly held by the metal, not being got rid of by heating, but are liberated by the action of cathode rays.

COMING EVENTS.

This section of the "C. & D." is reserved for advance notices of meetings or other events. These should be sent to the Editor by Wednesday of the week before the meetings, etc., occur.

Friday, February 21.

Bournemouth Pharmaceutical Association, Gervis Hall Restaurant, at 8.30 P.M. Monthly meeting.

Wednesday, February 26.

Chemists' and Druggists' Society of Ireland, 11 Waring Street, Belfast. Annual meeting and social evening.

Public Pharmacists' and Dispensers' Association, St. Bride Institute, Bride Lane, London, E.C., at 8 P.M. Short papers by members.

South-Eastern of London Pharmacists' Association, Roebuck Hotel, Lewisham, at 9 P.M. Mr. H. A. Mills, Ph.C., lantern-lecture on "Colour Photography."

School of Pharmacy of the Pharmaceutical Society, Gordon Room, Holborn Restaurant, London, W.C., at 7.30 P.M. Annual dinner Tickets (6s. 6d. each) may be had from the Secretaries of the Dinner Committee, 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.

Dorset County Pharmacists' Association, London Hotel, Poole, at 6.15 P.M. Meeting to receive reports and discuss points in regard to Insurance dispensing.

Nottingham Pharmaceutical Association, Victoria Station Hotel, at 9 P.M. Mr. C. E. Carr on "Prescriber and Pharmacists."

Portsmouth Pharmacists' Association, County Club, at 3 P.M. Annual meeting.

Liverpool Chemists' Association, Royal Institution, at 8 P.M. Discussion on "Every-day Difficulties of the Chemist."

Thursday, February 27.

Chemists' Assistants' Association, 73 Newman Street, Oxford Street, London, W., at 9 P.M. Mr. C. W. Gosling on "Bookkeeping as a Hobby for Pharmacists," and Mr. J. D. Kicnel on "The Investigation of Phosphorus Preparations."

North London Pharmacists' Association, Northampton House, St. Paul's Road, Highbury Station, N., at 8 P.M. Lantern-lecture by Mr. R. R. Bennett, B.Sc. on "Science and Criminology."

Peterborough Pharmacists' Association, Grand Hotel. Annual dinner. Tickets from Mr. H. E. Noble, Hon. Secretary, Long Causeway.

Cheltenham and Gloucester Pharmacists' Association, Plough Hotel, Cheltenham, at 9 P.M. Presidential address by Mr. Stroud.

Friday, February 28.

Royal Institution of Great Britain, Albemarle Street, Piccadilly, London, W., at 9 P.M. The Hon. R. J. Strutt on "Active Nitrogen."

JUNIOR PHARMACY BALL.—The thirty-second Junior Pharmacy Ball is arranged to take place at the Portman Rooms (entire suite), Baker Street, London, W., on March 5. Dancing begins at 9 P.M. Tickets (7s. 6d., including supper and light refreshments during the evening) may be had from the stewards, members of the committee, or the Hon. Secretary, Mr. B. R. Wilkinson, 28 Cromwell Place, South Kensington, S.W.



Memoranda for Correspondents.

All communications must be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers, otherwise they cannot be dealt with. Queries by subscribers on dispensing, legal, and miscellaneous subjects connected with the business are replied to in these columns if they are considered to be of general interest.

Letters submitted for publication (if suitable) should be written on one side of the paper only. Their publication in "The Chemist and Druggist" does not imply Editorial agreement with the opinions expressed.

Insurance Dispensing.

SIR,—As the time is getting along your readers would no doubt like to know if any steps have been taken to watch the floating sixpenny fund on behalf of the pharmacists. It would seem only fair that the drug fund should be kept in a perfectly sound financial condition and a good reserve maintained in case of excessive sickness. For this purpose the sixpenny fund should (if necessary) be used.

Darlington, February 17.

Yours faithfully,

J. WATERS.

SIR,—All counties are subjected to the same tariff, hence it is only feasible that we should all be under the same regulations appertaining to fees, hours for dispensing, etc. I cannot understand why all county associations are not in accord regarding these matters. Surely what applies to Tynemouth should apply to Kent or any other county. Why should one section of the community be granted a late fee and this consideration be denied to others? If the Chancellor requires an efficient pharmaceutical service he should be willing to pay fair remuneration for same. The medical men are not only reasonably but handsomely paid, and are still receiving every possible consideration from the Government, I think if the County Associations presented a united front and were unanimous in their demands, they would be favourably received. I think they should follow Tynemouth as regards hours for dispensing and late fees, with the addition that 4d. should be the minimum charge when a dispensing fee is allowed, 2d. otherwise, and the dispensing fee raised to 3d.; then chemists may afford to give every facility for carrying out the dispensing. Personally, I cannot see how a pharmacist can accept less. A dispenser is worthy of his hire, and nothing short of the above can pay him. If we are to become a negligible quantity the sooner we succumb the better. I must say I admire Mr. Jackson, Hereford, and, if I could, I would infuse his spirit into every chemist in England; then, I am positive, our demands would be acceded to.

Faithfully yours,

Crayford, February 11.

E. OCKWELL.

SIR,—Will you spare me the space for the following calculation? It will show other chemists how much we are likely to make, and to decide the question of "National Insurance Dispensing! Does it pay?" I took the first forty-five prescriptions, for mixtures and pills, out of a bundle of two hundred, and worked out the following calculation:

Average time for each prescription, five minutes—	
means three hours forty-five minutes for the forty-five.	
Total amount chargeable for the forty-five	19 7½
Less average dispensing-fee of 2d.	7 6
	12 1½
Allow average profit of 33½	4 0
	16 1½
Dispensing-fees	7 6
Profit on drugs	4 0
	11 6

This means a paltry 11s. 6d. for three and three-quarter hours' dispensing, supplying drugs, and, not to be forgotten,

three-quarters of an hour in pricing the prescriptions, as I had to copy out several ordered simply as "Repeat," which had to be hunted for out of 100 or more. Then add the time taken to enter the amounts in some sort of day-book, and also the making out of the account for the Committee.

I think that this, also the somewhat upsetting of one's ordinary business and having to wait for the account to be paid, should be a sufficient justification for an agitation for better prices for the chemist. I shall be delighted if any of your readers can show me any mistake I have made in my calculations, or that the prices we receive make it worth the extra hours and labour we have now to put in.

Yours faithfully,

London, S.W. FAIR PAY. (232/60.)

SIR,—I regret the excellent letter from "Country Pharmacist" which appeared three weeks ago has not provoked some following-up letters. We have all had our fling and kick at the poor tariff, and it has had plenty of destructive criticism. Now let us try a little of the constructive. In our calm reflective moments I think we admit that if so-and-so was altered on the tariff things might be made tolerable. For instance, if the $\frac{1}{2}d.$ minimum was dropped and $1d.$ adopted as the minimum charge that would cover a multitude of sins, and would be well worth striving for. Then, in the pricing of expensive solids, instead of adding $\frac{4}{10}$ why not spring another $\frac{1}{10}$ and, say, add half cost? Again, the ounce rate should only take effect from $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; it is most unfair to begin at $\frac{1}{2}j.$ The tinctures ought to be $1d.$ per $\frac{1}{2}j.$ up to and including $\frac{1}{2}j.$ All the dispensing-fees ought to be increased by at least a half more. The dispensing-fee of $4d.$ for two dozen powders does not pay half of the time occupied. The fee should be $8d.$, no matter what the powders contain. Remember that over and above the time and skill expended two dozen fine quality powder-papers and a good box have to be supplied to keep up the best traditions of Scotch pharmacy. The use of concentrated infusions have become so established in Scotch dispensing that we must have them listed like tinctures in the tariff. I think there ought to be a minimum charge of $3d.$ each prescription. The insured person cannot obtain the skill of a plumber or joiner for less than $1s.$, and $3d.$ is little enough when the exact dose of calomel has been supplied. Another argument in favour of a $3d.$ minimum is the time and trouble involved in pricing and the laying out of money; the Government are likely to take four or five months' credit, while chemists generally pay their wholesale accounts monthly. There are many more points to remark upon which some other Scotch chemist may feel inclined to deal with, so I will not encroach further on your space. Yours faithfully,

FIFE COUNTRY CHEMIST. (242/46.)

SIR,—It is my duty to correct the figures in my letter of February 15, which read that the "Pharmaceutical Journal" was a loss of 1,850% per annum, whereas it should have been about 3,000% in 1911. The average loss the last three years is about 2,700% per annum. This huge sum is passed by the Council without any special comment, and will give some idea how our subscriptions are spent on pharmaceutical lines and little left for the business end. Events of the past week show that the Act is running about as smoothly as could be expected, considering the foundations are so defective, the cable not strong enough to carry the weight, and the rack and pinion being necessary to keep the car with engineers and labourers on the line. The Premier owns that the Chancellor is not yet omnipotent. The extra $6d.$ is said to be an illegal promise, to be sanctioned next session of Parliament.

In the meantime, I shall not be surprised to see another strike of the doctors, and it remains to be seen whether the chemists will accept any terms which are thrown at them on the "take it or leave it" principle. It is well known the majority of the chemists went on the panel in self-defence. They are not so much afraid of the doctors regaining the dispensing as they are afraid of letting their own customers go into other shops. If the Government do start dispensaries their official dis-

pensers could not be allowed to compete in the legitimate business. There are already signs that there will be Insurance doctors and private practitioners, and instead of the patients having the choice of doctor the medical man will have choice of his class of patient. He cannot serve both kinds well; in a minor degree this may apply to the chemists dispensing if it does not pay all round. The Chancellor has promised more than he can perform for the money, and it is to be hoped he will chastise those who have deceived him instead of giving them the positions they have looked for. Choice of doctors and chemists on such terms is equivalent to saying the insured persons can be catered for in first-class hotels at common lodging-house prices.

Yours truly,

Hereford, February 17. J. J. JACKSON, Ph.C.

What of the Future?

SIR,—Mr. J. J. Jackson, of Hereford, writes as a business man; this is the exception, as chemists generally cannot be charged with being business men. Definite opinions of the Insurance Act cannot be given with any certainty until some three months have elapsed, and according to our experience the insured have practically selected their doctors. As to chemists who take their stocks (or have them taken) the number is small, but increasing, for various reasons, as it is beginning to dawn upon the more business section that they cannot without this being done give any reliable figures as to their net profits when selling (a very important item), nor can they make a certain claim in the event of a fire, also in some districts, the Inland Revenue are compelling chemists to take their stocks. That stocktaking is very necessary is evident from recent cases that we have had. One doing a large business thought his stock to be worth 4,000% ; it turned out to be a little over 2,000%. Another offered his business for sale at a lump sum (who but a chemist would buy at a lump sum?); it was valued, and stock and fixtures came out about 300% less than estimated. Another man we knew found out how much he owed, took his stock to this amount, and, as he put it, "the rest was his." Another firm, having returns wholesale and retail approaching five figures, sent for us and wanted a lump sum to be quoted. They could give us no idea of value, but upon being pressed produced stock books for several years, but unpriced. So on *ad infinitum*, and generally when completed the Post Office benefits by our repeatedly having to send in "account rendered."

Yours faithfully,

Leicester. BRETT & Co.

Shops Act and Insurance Dispensing.

SIR,—Why do not your correspondents interview the doctors in their neighbourhoods and get them to hold no surgery on the half-holiday? I have not opened during the last two weeks, and do not intend to in the future, unless it is proved impossible. The doctors have only been too pleased to fall in with the suggestion, two having gone so far as to print stickers for attaching to their client's red card stating the hours and the fact of no surgery on Wednesday evenings. One man has gone further, and will not see anyone at all neither morning nor evening on that day. He says he cannot afford to work at high pressure for seven days a week. The Commissioners accepted his contract on these terms. One other doctor said he was not going to spoil the chemists' holiday. Considering the way we have taken on this dispensing, and the risk of not getting one's full money, we deserve a little respite too. We work at top speed too when it is on.

Yours faithfully,

H. S. H. (239/59).

The Herbalist.

SIR,—The unqualified vendor never lacks friends in Parliament, but I trust the societies and trade generally will keep members of Parliament alive to the facts and not allow merely one side to be heard. The idea that conditions are now as in, say, 1867 is absurd on the face of it. Any person opening a herb or drug store has known perfectly the extent of his limitations. The local Insurance Committees recognise certain of these vendors

to the extent of their rights and privileges, but for poisons and other orthodox dispensing the chemist alone is admissible. The way is easy, after all, for these men—viz., to convert their businesses into limited liability companies and employ a qualified manager. If, however, chemists for their own purposes desire to see enrolled a body of unregistered and imperfectly trained men, then, of course, they will not be allowed to pick and choose. This is a time when all pharmacists, and their assistants who expect to be pharmacists, should stand firmly together. And most certainly nothing should be done which may tend to cheapen labour—far from well paid already.

Yours, etc.,

QUALIFIED. (181/3.)

"Lay out" in Advertising.

SIR,—To a discursive adventurer in the realms of publicity like myself it is embarrassing to be taken notice of by an erudite (and practical) expert like your "Xrayser II." In his observation (or was it a reflection?) of January 18 he illustrated very clearly the danger of the humorous element in advertising. As I said before, the subject is a large one, and at the moment I do not propose to do any more than to indicate that, in my opinion, the only really safe way to treat an advertising subject humorously is by illustration.

The English language is so inadequate in a humorous sense, and the sense of humour in the English nation is so uncertain, that the graphic art is the only really sure one. For it must not be forgotten that an advertisement to produce the effect intended—that is, to sell the goods advertised—must appeal to everybody, or almost everybody. Now, comparatively few of the entities composing the British nation—with the probable exception of the Scotch and the Irish—are endowed to any great extent with that psychic temperament which readily appreciates the subtle wit. To be universal the joke must be obvious, and that is where the artist has the pull over the copy-writer. In this connection the "Wee MacGregor" picture-poster done by Will Owen for "Oxo" some years ago occurs to my mind. That picture brought a smile, or a grin as the case might be, to the face of whoever noticed it, high or low, rich or poor, learned or unlearned, and its application inevitably went home. Therein consists the true art of advertising.

This naturally brings us to a consideration of the influence of Art on advertising. During recent years the artist has co-operated with the advertiser to a wonderful extent. This has been distinctly for the benefit of the advertiser and not at all to my mind to the detriment of the artist as such. If the ultimate aim of Art be the uplifting of the masses by implanting (subconsciously it may be) a yearning for the more beautiful things of life, then what agency is more potent for the artist than the field of advertising? The idealisation of the Ordinary is surely a worthy aim and one at which no true artist should balk. If, incidentally, this idealisation leads to larger sales of particular infants' food, a disinfectant, a tooth-brush, or even a proprietary tablet, service is being done not only to the advertiser, but to the artist, to the chemist, and to the general public.

The coming of the artist has raised the tone, the style, and (most of all) the appearance of advertising. It is mainly because of him and his work, I take it, that "Xrayser II." (*vide C. & D.*, February 1) finds the Winter issue of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST so attractive. For doubtless it is the beautifully produced insets with articles of everyday use to the pharmacist effectively illustrated in colours that secure primarily "Xrayser's" praise. Indeed, it would be difficult to praise some of these insets too highly, but that was not exactly what I meant by "lay out."

The success and attractiveness of such excellent advertising pages (as distinct from insets) as those of Wright, Layman & Umney, Ltd., S. Maw, Son & Sons, Baiss Bros. & Stevenson, Ltd., Burroughs Wellcome & Co., William Martindale, Seabury & Johnson, Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd. (malt-extract and oil), and Sangers depend either solely on the artist (whose illustrations have merely been reproduced) or on a combination of artist and printer.

The craftsmanship of the artist naturally leads him to provide (if allowed a free hand) an artistic combination of type and illustration. But it is a different thing when one has only type to "lay out," and that is why I admire in particular the pages of Howards & Sons, Ltd., and of Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co. These are both in cold type with no adventitious aids in the way of illustrations, yet they are so arranged that one stops instinctively and reads when one comes to the page. It is in that kind of "lay out" that we are still far behind the Americans.

Yours truly,

CHRISTOPHER COURTENAY.

Subscribers' Symposium.

For questions, answers, incidents, and interchange of opinions among "C. & D." readers.

Jenner's Mixture.

Can any subscriber oblige *Ph.C.* (242/26) with the formula for the above, if non-proprietary?

Pimple Lotion.

Pimples (240/34), writing from New Zealand, says: "In your issue December 7 you reply to 'H. A. G.' (15/40) re pimples on girl's face. No doubt your advice will be satisfactory, but it will interest you to know that the formula for 'Pimple Lotion' in 'Pharmaceutical Formulas,' p. 5, has proven in my business all that the note appended to it states. This one formula has paid for my 'P.F.' over and over again. The foot-note drew my attention. I prepared a label, put it up as a proprietary, and have sold many scores of bottles. The label I use is enclosed herewith." The label is worded as follows:

PIMPLE LOTION.

A quick and effective remedy for pimples, blackheads, and other face eruptions.

This lotion will make any face clean and free from blemish if applied regularly as directed for a reasonable time. Several bottles may be necessary to effect desired result, but one often cures.

Directions.

Keep the bottle well shaken, and apply at intervals during the day. Also apply each night before retiring, and allow to dry and remain all night. If this label is used in Great Britain medicine stamp-duty must be paid. We also append the formula:

Crystallised alum	...	...	...	3j.
Salt	...	...	...	3j.
Sublimed sulphur	...	...	...	3j.
Sugar candy	...	...	...	3ij.
Spermacei	...	...	...	3ij.
Elder-flower water	...	...	...	3ij.
Distilled water	...	...	...	3ij.
Brandy	...	...	...	3x.

Reduce all the solids to fine powder and rub up with the mixed liquids.

"The lotion to be applied at intervals during the day upon linen rags, which should frequently be changed."

Curious as this lotion appears to be, it is an effectual and quick remedy for eruptions on the face.

[We always welcome letters like the above, whether commendatory or critical.]

Legal Queries.

Before writing about your difficulty consult "The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary," 1913, pp. 211-242 and pp. 457-459, where most legal difficulties are anticipated.

Worried (234/3).—Show the Excise officer the paragraph "Apprenticeship" in the *C. & D. Diary*, p. 218.

Cler. (191/19).—The regulations made under the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908, as regards the sale of LIQUID AMMONIA, apply only to retail sales, and not to wholesaling.

Beta (242/15).—It is necessary for a limited company trading as "cash chemists" to have a registered chemist as the superintendent of the business, and his name must be sent to the Registrar under the Pharmacy Acts.

D. H. S. (234/74).—MEDICINE LIABILITY.—If the green ointment is not an entire drug it is liable to medicine stamp-duty, because it is recommended for the human ailments, cuts, sores, bruises, scalds, burns, and boils. The carton also

directs it to be applied to the wound, and to be rubbed on bruises and swellings, which also are ailments.

J. A. B. (237/15).—INSURANCE ACT DISPENSERS.—A certificate given to you by an M.D. is useless for Insurance Act purposes. The only persons qualified to dispense under that Act are registered chemists and certain other dispensers defined in the Act. See *C. & D. Diary*, p. 458; also various articles on the subject in the *C. & D.* during the present year. If you start a drug-store on your own account, your name cannot be put on the dispensing panel; therefore you cannot dispense Insurance Act prescriptions, no matter what they may contain.

A Subscriber (240/48) puts the following case: A is an unqualified person who is putting on the market a pill containing EXTRACTS OF HYOSCYAMUS AND COLCHICUM. A can supply these, of course, wholesale, but can he conduct a mail-order business for the sale of single boxes, seeing that they contain poison? If not, can he send money and orders so received to B, who is a qualified chemist, for execution? [Assuming that the pills are a statutory poison on account of containing poisonous vegetable alkaloids, they are in Part 2 of the Schedule, and may not be sold retail by A. There is nothing to prevent him passing on the mail orders to B.]

M.P.S. (232/26).—VETERINARY ETIQUETTE.—Our correspondent wants to know if it is a breach of professional conduct on the part of a veterinary surgeon (M.R.C.V.S.), who attends periodically at various hotels in the locality, to cause signboards to be affixed outside the premises bearing, in addition to name and hours of attendance, the information, "Stock drenches kept here"? [The Secretary of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons informs us that every case of complaint with regard to unprofessional conduct is considered by the Registration Committee on its merits, and the Council alone has the right to decide what is unprofessional conduct. The instance you give can only affect fellow-members of the College, and it is their duty to report to the Secretary any complaint which they may have to make.]

S. S. (228/11).—"DRUGGISTS' SUNDRIES KEPT IN STOCK" are the words on a card exhibited in the drug-shop of a person who is not a registered chemist. Is it legal? [Sections 1 and 15 of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, restrict the use of the name or title of "druggist," among others, to registered pharmaceutical chemists and registered chemists and druggists, and there is nothing in the Sections to qualify the words "take, use, or exhibit" which are employed in respect to the name or title, such as those which occur in Section 12 of the 1852 Act—namely, "implying that he is registered under this Act." The effect of this may be that the use by a retailer of the title in connection with his goods, not necessarily with himself, may be struck at by the Act. We consider, therefore, that it is not advisable for unregistered persons to advertise "druggists' sundries" in connection with their business, or to exhibit such titles in the places of business.]

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We do not as a rule repeat information which has been given in this section during the past twelve months, as it occupies space which can be more profitably utilised for other information. In such cases the numbers are mentioned, and if querists cannot refer to these they may obtain the numbers from the "C. & D." Office at the published prices, usually 6d.

We do not undertake to analyse and report upon proprietary articles, and when samples are sent particulars should be supplied to us as to their origin, what they are, what they are used for and how.

T. W. H. (230/61).—SOIL ANALYSIS.—We do not know of a simple book on this subject, the standard work, Wiley's "Principles and Practice of Agricultural Analysis," being a two-volume book published by Williams & Norgate. You should, as a preliminary to taking up the work, make a study of the uses of soils, Hall's "The Soil: an Introduction to the Scientific Study of the Growth of Crops" (Murray, 5s.) or McConnell's "Soils: their Nature and Treatment" (Cassell, 1s.) being suitable. See also article in this issue.

C. D. L. (Paris) (230/74).—(1) There is no book published on the manufacture of malt extract for medicinal use. The process was described in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST some years ago (September 6, 1890) by Mr. J. C. Umney. **(2) BOOK ON AERATED WATERS.**—The laboratory work in connection with aerated waters is dealt with in Sulz's "Treatise on Beverages" (Dick & Fitzgerald, New York), but we do not think an edition of that work has appeared since 1888.

(3) BOOKS ON FERMENTATION.—Hansen's "Practical Studies in Fermentation" (Spon, 12s. 6d.) and Jorgensen's "Micro-organisms and Fermentation" (Macmillan, 10s.).

J. B. (230/57).—ROUP-POWDER FOR FOWLS.—A tablespoonful of the following is placed in the food for ten fowls:

Pulv. potass. nit.,	...	...	aa. 5j.
Pulv. cubebæ	...	...	...
Pulv. lini	...	...	3x.
Pulv. glycyrrh.	...	...	5iv.

Individual treatment by inhalation and the administration of roup-paste is preferable to the general treatment indicated by the use of above powder.

E. H. R. (226/6).—There is not, so far as we are aware, any efficient substitute for menthol in an inhalant.

P. E. K. (230/51).—BENZOLINE AND BENZINE give off inflammable vapours at all ordinary temperatures.

J. M. (225/12).—TEETH-EXTRACTION.—The article in *The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary*, 1910, p. 455, is suitable for a beginner in dentistry. Other books are Barrett's "Dental Surgery for Medical Practitioners and Students of Medicine" (Lewis, 3s. 6d.) and "Sewill's "Dental Surgery" (Baillière, 10s. 6d.).

P. D. Co. (216/27).—SMALL WORMS IN CHICKENS.—The remedy for worms in puppies is of a proprietary nature, and it would be unfair to the makers if we were to help you to imitate it. There are well-known remedies for worms in chickens, the following being those that have proved most successful in practice:

1.	2.	3.
New-laid egg j.	Santonin 2 to 3 grs.	Areca nut, freshly powdered 5ij.
Oil of turpentine 3ss.	in pill on three alternate mornings with ol. olivæ 5ij. two hours after each dose.	Divide into four powders and give one every morning fasting, following each dose after an interval of two hours with ol. olivæ 5ij.
Mix. Dose: One teaspoonful night and morning for a few days.		4.
		Santonin gr. j.
		Jalap gr. ij.
		For a dose. After half an hour feed with warm soft food.

D. M. D. (172/40).—FIG-SYRUP.—A formula for this was last published in the *C. & D.*, January 21, 1911, index folio 100.

C. & S. (225/9).—(1) SWEATING-POWDER.—See *C. & D.*, January 11, index folio 68. **(2) INFLUENZA-POWDERS.**—There are several forms of this in use, e.g.:

1.	2.	3.	4.
Salicin gr. x.	P. potass. nit. gr. x.	Sodii salicyl. ʒv.	Quin. sulph. ʒij.
Pro dose.	P. sacch. lactis gr. x.	Misce. Dose, ten grains.	
	P. cocci cacti q.s.		
	Pro dose.		5.
Phenazoni gr. v.	Quin. sulph. gr. ʒj.	Quin. sulph. gr. ij.	Phenacetini gr. viij.
Pro dose.		Misce.	One every four hours.

G. E. H. (235/20).—Snyder's "Soils and Fertilisers" is published by Macmillan. The last edition is dated 1908.

Interested (222/70).—The method of obtaining situations as a chemist's assistant in Canada and the United States is to go there with letters of recommendation. You cannot while on this side of the Atlantic get a position on the other side.

J. O. B. (174/13).—You have correctly interpreted what the Latin directions mean.

Retrospect of Fifty Years Ago.

Reprinted from "The Chemist and Druggist," February 14, 1863.

Compressed Red Precipitate.

We have had forwarded to us from a subscriber at Taunton a specimen of red precipitate condensed into a solid form, so as to admit of being employed in the same manner as a pencil of lunar caustic. The use of red precipitate as an escharotic has been frequently found inconvenient, owing to its having to be employed in the form of powder, which cannot be applied exactly where required. This source of annoyance is completely obviated by the formation of the remedy into a solid stick, which, we should think, would be found very useful in all cases where the employment of red precipitate is indicated.

